WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

September 2007 Elul 5767/Tishrei 5768 Volume XXXII: Number 1 FREE

Apples & Honey celebration at the JCC

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Apples & Honey, an annual family event that celebrates the fall Jewish holidays, will take place on Sunday, September 9 from 1–4 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. Chairing the event this year are Pyper Alpern and Viktoriya Strumba. The event is open to everyone and is free of charge.

Participants will be able to taste apples and honey, symbolic of the Jewish New Year and children will have the chance to participate in many activities including bouncers, games, shofar blowing and arts and crafts. Clowns will entertain guests with face painting and balloon animals, and a petting zoo and pony rides will also be part of the fun. Israeli food, kosher baked goods, and lunch will be available for purchase along with gifts and Judaica items.

This program brings together many local Jewish organizations to provide information about their purpose and to educate participants about the upcoming holidays: Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year; Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement; and Sukkot, the fall harvest festival.

A special Newcomers table will welcome new JCC members and new arrivals to the Ann Arbor community.

Reservations are required to attend. For more information on sponsoring a table or to register for Apples & Honey, call 971-0990. ■

Kol Halev in Argentina

Jonathan Levine and Cantor Annie Rose, special to the WJN

In late June 2007, Kol Halev, the adult choir of Temple Beth Emeth (whose members also include members of Beth Israel Congregation and the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Chavurah), and non-singing travelers began a 12-day concert tour of Argentina, visiting synagogues, Jewish centers, old-age homes, and other sites of Jewish and Argentinean life. The 55-member tour group spent time in six cities and towns, with eight concerts by Kol Halev engaging audiences in each community.

Kol Halev of Temple Beth Emeth

Unforgettable receptions with members of the Jewish communities, wonderful performances by collaborating choirs, tours of synagogues, beautiful services, and a tremendous sense of bonding were highlights of the trip. Concerts by Kol Halev in two Jewish day schools were particularlymemorable, with hundreds of children singing and clapping along throughout the shows.

The head of the Jewish community in Cordoba addressed Kol Halev and friends after the first concert: "You have come from so far away, and we have only met, yet already we are family. We are one. We must keep our new community together always; our children must know each other, must know the love we share and the one-ness of us. You have brought us something we will treasure. Please come back to us again." Then every member of the diverse crowd of Argentines and Americans sang "Hine Mah Tov"—one in song and heart, arms around each other and swaying as they sang.

Each community had its own flavor and character, the most unusual being Moises Ville, a town of 2,000 people in the Argentine interior, hundreds of kilometers from anywhere. This unlikely rural location was the site of what is best described as the only shtetl in the Americas. The travelers visited four synagogues (one working), a Jewish elementary school (working in the afternoon for a small group) and a Jewish teachers' seminary (used only sporadically). The most notable structure is the Kadima Theater, built in grand European style, and inscribed prominently in Yiddish .

The history involves a community from Kamenetz-Podolsk, Ukraine, that sought to escape pogroms and other hardships of the late 19th century by purchasing land and settling in rural Argentina. In the process, they found plenty of hardship, disease, and starvation, but ultimately came under the sponsorship of the Baron Moses Hirsch—hence the name "Moises Ville" (pronounced in Argentinean Spanish something like "moy sess vizheh.") The com-

Continued on page 37

HDS's Jennifer Rosenberg receives Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education

By Samantha Leapman and WJN *staff writers*

Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor gan co-teacher Jennifer Rosenberg is one of 76 exemplary classroom Jewish educators from across North America selected to receive the eighth annual Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards for Excellence in Jewish Education.

Jennifer Rosenberg

Rosenberg has worked in the field of education for 15 years. She has a master of arts degree in education from Harvard University and a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She was formerly a vice-principal of Oakland Hebrew Day School in Oakland, California, and the school's general studies coordinator; prior to that she was a head teacher for first and second grade. She spent a year in an intensive Hebrew language program at an ulpan in Israel. She has also taught at the Akko Center for Co-Existence in Akko, Israel, where she developed a program that facilitated discussions between Jewish and Arab students.

The Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards are designed to recognize, honor and support outstanding Jewish educators in day schools and other formal Jewish educational settings on the local level. Each Awards winner has made a career commitment to the field, has contributed in some outstanding way to his or her school or community, and exemplifies excellence in Jewish education. These teachers passionately engage children in Jewish learning, convey to them a love of Jewish history, Torah, Talmud, Israel and/or the Hebrew language. They are from diverse backgrounds, representing each of the North American Jewish denominations.

JESNA (Jewish Education Service of North America) developed the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards in partnership with the two foundations as a reflection of the deep commitment Harold Grinspoon and Michael Steinhardt have for Jewish education and their recognition that high caliber educators comprise the basis for a meaningful Jewish educational process. In the

Continued on page 37

In this issue…

Beth Israel's Trip to Israel

Page 10

Federation Leaders Ethiopia Misssion

Page 16

Enclosed…

You will find the Temple Beth Emeth Kol Halev CD from their tour of Argentina this summer. Additional copies are available through the TBE office, at 665-4744

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High Holidays

Services for the High Holidays

ROSH HASHANAH	9/12	9/13	Tashlich	9/14
Beth Israel Congregation		8 a.m.	5:15 p.m.	8 a.m.
Family Celebration	4 p.m.		5:15 p.m.	10:30 a.m.
Mincha				7:20 p.m.
Ma'ariv	8 p.m.	7:45 p.m.		7:45 p.m.
Chabad House	7:30 p.m.	9:45 a.m.	4 p.m.	9:45 a.m., 7:10 p.m.
Hillel			4:30 p.m.	
Conservative	7:30 p.m.	9 a.m./7:30 p.m.		9 am/7:30
Orthodox (AAOM)	7:30 p.m.	9 am/7:30 p.m.		9a.m./7:30
Reform	7:30 p.m.	10 a.m.		
Jewish Cultural Society	7 p.m.		noon	
Pardes Hannah		9:30 a.m.		10 a.m.
Reconstructionist Havurah	8 p.m.	9 a.m.	3:30 p.m.	11 a.m.
Childrens Program		11 a.m.		
Temple Beth Emeth	7:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.	
Family Service		9 a.m.		
Traditional & AARTY		11 a.m.		
Pre-reader		2:30 p.m.		

YOM KIPPUR	9/21	9/22	BREAK-THE-FAST
Beth Israel Congregation	7 p.m.	8 a.m.	8:15 p.m.
Teen/Youth	7 p.m.		
Mincha, Neilah		5:20 p.m., 6:40 p.m.	
Chabad House	7:30 p.m.	9:45 a.m.	7:50 p.m.
		5:30 p.m.	
Hillel			
Conservative	7:15 p.m.	9 a.m.	6:45 p.m.
Orthodox (AAOM)	7 p.m.	9 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
Reform	7:15 p.m.	10 a.m.	6 p.m.
Jewish Cultural Society	7 p.m.	2 p.m.	6 p.m.
Pardes Hannah	6:45 p.m	9:30 a.m.	
Mincha, Neilah		4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.	
Reconstructionist Havurah	7 p.m.	10 a.m.	8 pm
Childrens Programs		11 a.m.	
Adult Study		2:45 p.m.	
Neliah		6:45 p.m.	
Temple Beth Emeth	7:30 p.m.		
AARTY	7:30 p.m.		
Family Service		9 a.m.	
Traditional		11 a.m.	
Adult Study		1:30 p.m.	
Personal Renewal Service		2:30 p.m.	
Afternoon Service		3:30 p.m.	
Yizkor & Neilah		5:30 p.m.	Following 5:30 p.m. service

In this issue...

Advertisers 39
Calendar 34
Campus 8
Classifieds 38
Congregations 18
High Holidays 14
Israel 27
Kosher Cuisine 32
On Another Note 30
Seniors 6
Teens 20
Vitals 22
World Jewry 26
Year in Review 13

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Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

Federation 2008 Annual Campaign: Celebrating Jewish Life

Jeffrey Lazor, special to the WJN

Under the direction of Campaign Co-Chairs Dr. Gary Freed and Susan Fisher, the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County has adopted the theme of Celebrating Jewish Life, which will resonate throughout the year's campaign and community building events. "The diverse and active Ann Arbor Jewish Community has a lot to celebrate. The breadth and depth of religious, cultural, educational and social activities available add so much to the fabric of our lives. This theme is a natural in that it will allow us to showcase all these varied opportunities throughout the year," said Fisher.

The Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County's 2008 Annual Campaign will feature a new campaign structure emphasizing an affinity group-based solicitation process, increased leadership from the Young Adult Division, and more frequent phone-a-thons in order to connect with the entire Washtenaw County Jewish community all with an emphasis on celebrating Jewish life and values. "The campaign will raise the resources necessary for activities and programs in our community to Celebrate Jewish Life and to allow us to do the same for other Jewish communities around the world who are in need" remarked Dr. Freed.

This year's Federation events calendar features some of the world's brightest and most creative minds. See below for a glimpse at some of the exciting programs that being offered.

Campaign Leadership Kick-Off - hosted and chaired by Larry and Joanne Smith

As a Celebration of Jewish Humor this event will feature comedian Joel Chasnoff. Joel, who has opened for some of the world's biggest acts, including Jon Stewart of the Daily Show, focuses his humor on the funnier aspects of Jewish life and what it means to be Jewish in America. Heavy appetizers will be served. There is a $5,000 suggested minimum contribution to the Annual Campaign for attendance at this event being held September 19 at 7 p.m. RSVP to Cindy Adams at cindy@jewishannarbor.org.

Maimonides Campaign Event - chaired by Dr. Michelle Riba and Dr. Ezra Burstein.

This year, the Maimonides Society proudly presents Dr. Avi Yisraeli, the Director General for the Ministry of Health of Israel and the former Director General of Hadassah Hospital. This event Celebrating Jewish Health will take place October 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the University of Michigan Depression Center. All physicians and dentists in Washtenaw County are invited. Heavy appetizers will be served and tours of the Depression Center will be available until 6:45 p.m. Tickets are $18 or $5 for House Officers.

Night of Hilarity and Charity chaired by Ron and Julie Stein Perry and Monica Vaisman and Yehuda Bechar.

This Young Adult Division (YAD) program will feature a comedian guaranteed to make you hurt from laughing. This event will take place in late October – check the October Washtenaw Jewish News for more details. In addition to celebrating Jewish humor, this event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Jewish philanthropy and community involvement.

The Main Event - chaired by Jeffrey and Laurie Barnett and Kim and Steve Saxe.

Celebrate Israel will be a focus of the Main Event, as the community begins to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Israel's independence. Michael Oren, this year's keynote speaker, is a Senior Fellow at the Shalom Center, a Jerusalem research and educational institute. He is the author of the best-selling *Six Days of War: June 1967 and The Making of the Modern Middle East* (Oxford, 2002). His newly published book is *Power, Faith, and Fantasy America in the Middle East 1776 to the Present.* The Main Event will feature a community lighting of the Chanukah Menorah.

The Main Event is scheduled for December 6, 7:30 p.m. at the newly renovated Marriott Eagle Crest Conference Center and will include a dessert reception. Tickets for the event are $36, and attendees are asked to make a $100 minimum family contribution to the 2008 Annual Campaign. ■

For more information about Federation programs, contact Jeffrey Lazor at jefflazor@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.

Retreating to the sukkah of the world

Marcy Epstein and Evelyn Neuhaus, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah will host its seventh annual Sukkot retreat September 28-29, at Camp Talahi, 25 minutes from Ann Arbor. This year's theme is "Guests in the World," encompassing the idea that we are walking the earth as revered guests and gracious hosts, aware and blessed in both our transience and stewardship of creation. Guests from other congregations in Ann Arbor, Lansing, greater Detroit, and northern Michigan are invited to attend.

New this year will be two options for celebration: a day-long retreat with the additional option for a Shabbat overnight. For Friday, there will be the opportunity for Havurah members to mix more informally in prayer, sukkah building, supper, and song. Overnight bunk accommodations will be available for individuals and families. Saturday begins the formal retreat, with early morning Torah Yoga and two options for worship, a Sabbath in the sukkah and a walk-meditation, led by the Havurah's JuBu group.

There will be several workshops offered throughout the afternoon, including the exploration of prayer, film screening and discussion, nature hike, folk dancing to live Klezmer music, and a lively roundtable on the concept of "shelter" in contemporary Israel. Local cook and gardener Chava Israel will conduct a workshop on Jewish cooking of Calcutta, including some history and recipes from the Iraqi-Jewish community that settled there centuries ago. Israel will prepare a Judeo-Indian feast for dinner.

Allison Stupka will coordinate child care for the event. Kids will learn about the four species and holiday practices, and explore the ethics and customs of being a good guest. Their afternoons will include cookie baking with Jen Cohen, Israeli soccer, Steal the Bagel, sukkah decorating and a nature art class. ■

For more information or to register, contact Allison Stupka at 913-9705 or email info@aarecon.org. The brochure, with directions and more, will also be posted on website at www.aarecon.org

JCC Sukkot Family Concert features Judy & David

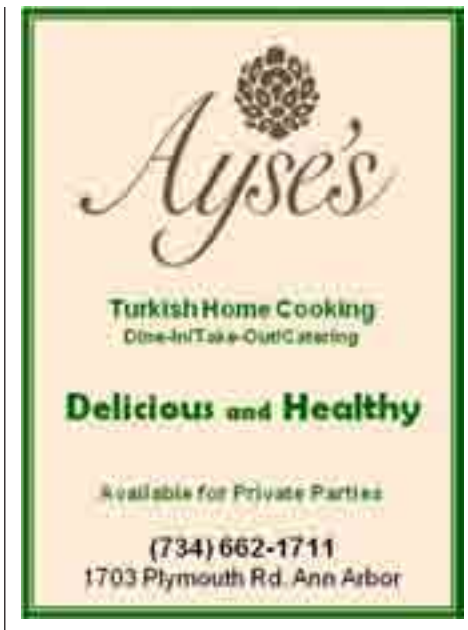
Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will celebrate Sukkot with a Fall Family Concert featuring entertainment by Judy & David on Sunday, September 30 at 3 p.m. The cost is $8 per person or $30 per family, which includes Sukkot activities, the concert, and dinner.

The Judy & David concert features interactive music, with songs both children and parents will love. Their songs are especially attuned to what matters to preschoolers, brought off with a light and whimsical touch, and with contagious melodies and appealing arrangements. The emphasis is solely on the joy of making music—which they do with verve and polish and a kinetic rapport with each other and the audience. They sing, they play (Judy the piano, David the guitar), and they put an original spin on old favorite songs. From the very first song they include the audience, encouraging them to sing along, clap, snap, gesticulate, and dance.

Judy & David are the Juno-award-winning stars of Treehouse TV's hit series "Judy & David's Boom Box" and are now among the most popular children's entertainers in North America. They launched in February 1993 with the vision of providing hip, fun-filled children's music that could engage a young audience's active involvement at every turn. The Canadian, Jewish duo of Judy & David is a celebrated and sought-after live family concert act. They have also become one of the most prolific children's recording acts in North America, with 15 albums and four video releases to their credit and over five million recordings sold around the world. ■

For more information or to register, contact the JCC at 971-0990.



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Absolute YAD

Ellisha Caplan, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division kicked off a year of new programming for one of their most popular new programs on August 31. Absolute YAD, a monthly bar night that melds social gatherings with social action began in October 2006, and quickly became a mainstay for local Jewish singles and couples. The events take place in a variety of Ann Arbor watering holes, and at each one, there is a chance to sign up for something to benefit the Jewish community, from Purim baskets for Jewish Family Services' older adults, to Super Sunday slots, to a trip to rebuild New Orleans and filling boxes at Food Gatherers.

For young Jews in Washtenaw County looking to get involved, Absolute YAD lowers barriers to involvement that exist in some organized Jewish programs. "This is a way to dip your toe in—no RSVP required, no Jewish knowledge expected—just an interest in checking out a new place, meeting some new people, and learning about ways to get more involved", says Evan Zacks, Absolute YAD Chair.

The next Absolute YAD is set for October 1 at Bar Louie, and will start right after the first Power Hour event of the fall, a Young Adult Division event for future and current members of the business and professional community, featuring Gerry Miller, COO of Eprize.com.

For more information on Absolute YAD, call Ellisha Caplan at 677-0100.

Absolute YAD Upcoming Dates:

Monday, October 1 at 8 p.m., Bar Louie
Thursday, November 1 at 8 p.m, Vinology
Monday, December 3 at 8 p.m, Monkey Bar
Thursday, February 4 at 8 p.m, Buffalo Wild Wings

YAD Shabbat in the Park set for 9/ 7

Ellisha Caplan, special to the WJN

Each summer for the past seven years, the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County's Young Adult Division has set aside one night for a Shabbat experience different from the rest. Over 150 people gather at Burns Park, blankets in hand, for a laid back night with Shabbat songs and a catered picnic dinner.

The event, which will take place Friday, September 7 at 6 p.m. in Burns Park, is particularly aimed at welcoming newcomers to the Ann Arbor area. The host committee for Shabbat in the Park, which is just as diverse as the local young adult population, will make a special effort to invite people who are either new to Ann Arbor this fall or have never attended a YAD event. "We decided to invite first time attendees to come for free this year. Sometimes it's hard to come to an event when you don't know anyone yet, and we wanted to add an incentive for people to take a chance and come out to see what we're about," said YAD Co-Chair and event organizer Stefanie Aronow.

For Ashley Adox, also one of the event's organizers this year, Shabbat in the Park was one of her first introductions to the organized Jewish community in Ann Arbor. "My husband Jim and I came to Shabbat in the Park two years ago, and it was our first YAD event. For us, it was a great way to become more involved in the Jewish community and to meet new people."

The food is always a little different from your typical Shabbat dinner fare, and this year is no different. Chef Cari of West Bloomfield is catering an Israeli-style dinner with all the makings for shuk-style falafel sandwiches (plus vegetarian chicken nuggets for picky eaters). "This event is one of the best we do," said YAD Co-Chair and Shabbat in the Park organizer Laura Burstein, "there's such diversity in YAD, because between the ages of 25 and 45 people are in all different places in life—some of us are still on the dating scene, others are in relationships, and then there are a bunch of young families with children as well. Shabbat in the Park manages to create an atmosphere that's fun for everyone." ■

Nearly 150 people attended Shabbat in the Park '06

To find out more about the Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division or to RSVP for the event by September 2, visit www.jewishannarbor.org/weareyad or call Ellisha Caplan at 677-0100. Tickets are $10 for adults and $8 for children over the age of four.

JCC/JFS offering new adult programs

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Autumn Paddle and Picnic will be held on Tuesday, September 25 from 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at Gallup Park. The fee of $25 includes lunch and boat ride. Naturalist Cheryl Saam, AACA instructor and facilities supervisor of the Ann Arbor Canoe Liveries, will lead participants through 2.5 miles of still-water and wetlands, providing instruction and education along the way. Reservations are required by September 14 to Abbie at Jewish Family Services: 769-0209.

Grandparent University will begin on Thursday, September 20, from 2:15–4:15 p.m., at the JCC. The topic for discussion will be "Child and Adolescent Development: The Latest Research on How Kids Grow and Learn," featuring developmental psychologist Kate Rosenblum, Ph.D., from the Center for Human Growth and Development at the University of Michigan. ■

Baby Boomers and career-changers the focus of upcoming JFS events

Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson, special to the WJN

Responding to national trends and emerging needs of the local population, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is holding two timely events this fall. "What Are You Doing with the Rest of Your Life?: Finding Fulfilling Work in Life's 2nd Half" (September 24) and "Preparing for a Perfect Storm: The Jewish Baby Boomer Summit" (October 9) each address today's high-priority issues in our community.

Nearly 70 percent of adults over the age of 50 plan to continue working even during retirement, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). However, until very recently, little attention has been given to later life desires and needs for fulfilling, paid work. In the state of Michigan, with its faltering economy, loss of jobs, and aging population, the need for creative work opportunities for adults over the age of 50 is particularly salient.

Given the large number of Washtenaw County families affected by layoffs from the local pharmaceutical and automotive industries, as well as the many middle-aged adults who are preparing for an active and meaningful retirement, JFS will be holding a dinner event entitled "What Are You Doing with the Rest of Your Life?: Finding Fulfilling Work in Life's 2nd Half" on Monday, September 24, from 6-8 p.m. at Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Building. Keynote speaker Lily Jarman-Reisch, LMSW, M.A, Director of SeaChange, will draw on current research and case examples of laid-off professionals and other older career changers from Southeast Michigan and California's Silicon Valley. She will describe the characteristics of those in mid-life who have successfully transitioned between fields of work. Participants will receive tips for negotiating the challenges unique to older career changes, as well as a bibliography and other useful resources.

The presentation will be preceded by dinner and followed by an open forum in which participants can share ideas about the kinds of resources that could be most helpful to those considering career change after age 50. Jewish Family Services is partnering with a broad range of co-sponsors for this event, including AARP Michigan, Catholic Social Services, Center for the Education of Women, Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Michigan, Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Temple Beth Emeth, Turner Senior Resource Center, U-M School of Social Work, and the Washtenaw Community College Encore Career Project.

Another emerging issue in the community involves the aging of the large Baby Boom cohort. Many businesses are re-branding and re-examining their services to meet the needs of the millions of Boomers approaching their 60s with health and energy far beyond those of their predecessors. But what about the Jewish community? How is the Jewish community prepared to engage Baby Boomers now (as volunteers, participants, and donors) as well as to meet their unique needs as they age in the coming years?

To address this question, JFS and the Jewish Federation have planned a lunch event entitled *Preparing for a Perfect Storm: The Jewish Baby Boomer Summit* to be held on October 9 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center. Dynamic and nationally-acclaimed keynote speaker Mark Goldstein, co-founder of Age Wave LLC, will present a talk entitled "The Americanization of Jewish Baby Boomers: Are We Heading into a Perfect Storm?"

In addition, Randall Ross of the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan will share the myriad ways Baby Boomers are making a difference in Southeast Michigan. Jewish Family Services will present the results of the JFS Jewish Baby Boomer study conducted this summer, and the Jewish Federation will share news about the strategic plan for Older Adult Services. Jewish professionals, lay leaders, and Baby Boomers themselves are encouraged to attend. ■

For more information or to register for either or both of these events, contact Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at Jewish Family Services: 769-0209 or visit www.jfsannarbor.org.

JCC plans family ski, snowboard trip

Bob Sims, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County is planning a four-day Family Ski and Snowboard Trip to Boyne Mountain ski resort during spring break. Cross country skiers are also welcome. The trip will include three nights lodging, three full buffet breakfasts, lift tickets for two 12-hour and two 7-hour days (optional credit for non-skiers), Shabbat dinner, optional bus transportation both ways, and a pre-trip pizza party. The dates are Thursday, February 28 through Sunday, March 2, 2008.

The trip is designed to make it easy for Jewish families to spend a long weekend together at a Michigan ski resort. There will be plenty of things for non-skiers (e.g., grandparents) to do, and they can meet each other at the pre-party to plan activities with each other. There will be activities for kids of all ages: All-day ski & play class for kids 3–8, playcare for kids too young to ski, and babysitters for the 0–7 months crowd. Prices for kids are reasonable. JCC membership is not required; anyone is welcome on the trip.

JCC ski trip committee chair Bob Sims says "This is also an opportunity to share a completely different enthusiasm with Jewish friends and others we know from around town or will meet. The JCC will have a variety of ways to help trip-goers find each other and hang out together."

An application and a flier with details about the trip can be found on the JCC website at www.JCCAnnArbor.org. They can also be obtained by stopping in, calling, or writing the JCC at 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, 971-0990. Anyone with questions about the trip can call Bob Sims at 761-9491 or email him at bobsims@umich.edu. ■

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Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3.

12:30 p.m. New American Club
ESL Class for Russian Seniors.

Monday, September 10
Rosh Hashanah celebrations

1–2 p.m. Rabbi Rob Dobrusin, accompanied by pianist, Bob Sims, will celebrate the New Year with us.

7–9 p.m. Russian family group, Rachel Murkis Ensemble will play and sing Russian, English, and Yiddish music for all. Refreshments will be served.

Monday, September 17:
1-2 p.m. Michael Homel, EMU professor of history, will present a discussion of the work of Neil Sedaka and others from the 1950s. The talk will be on "Neil Sedaka, A nice Jewish boy from Brooklyn and the pop music of the late 1950s."

Monday, September 24:

Lifeline Stroke screenings
9–4 p.m. Lifeline Co. will do ultrasound tests by appointment. Tests will take place in Newman Lounge, so lunch will be served in the Gelman Lounge or the Levine Lounge.

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m. Pre-Mahj brown bag

Noon. Mah Jongg.

1–2:30 p.m. Drop-In Hobby Time. Join two quilters, an embroiderer, a person who draws, and a knitter in fellowship and a nosh.

Wednesdays

10:30 a.m–noon, Class: The Bible in its Time with Dr. Lizbeth Fried Liz will continue her Emeritus classes through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC, 971-0990. Thursdays at the JCC

10–11 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar. $4 or 3 sessions for $10.
10:30 p.m. New American Club. ESL Class for Russian Seniors

11 a.m –noon. Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news.

Noon. Homemade Dairy Luncheon Buffet. $3.

Thursdays

1–2 p.m. Thursday Special Events and Presentations (see below).

2:15–3:15 p.m. Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky.

Thursday Special Events and Presentations:

Thursday, September 6
1 p.m. Miriam Brysk, Emeritus Biochemistry Professor, Photographer and Mixed-Media Artist presents her exquisite new series of pieces honoring the children of the Holocaust.

Thursday, September 20
1 p.m. Yiddish Open House Marilyn Krimm presents "Music and Mame-Loschen" (Music in the Mother Tongue). Yiddish songs (with English translations) by soprano vocalist, Krimm. Nelly Ullman will make introductions and give a 10-minute Yiddish lesson through songs translated for your understanding. (See Yiddish Open House box)

Yiddish Open House

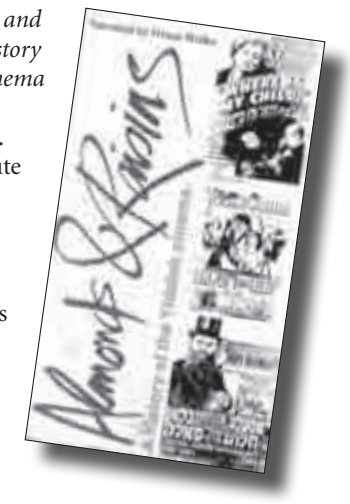
Do you speak Yiddish or do you remember a bis'l from childhood? Yiddish is part of our heritage. Help us keep it alive with our new series. Each program will feature 10 minutes of Yiddish vocabulary and expressions with Nelly Ullman then an exciting musician, speaker or film.

Coming next month

Wednesday, October 10:
MATINEE MUSICALE
1:30 p.m. Refreshments; 2 p.m. performance: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quintet performs in honor of Daniel Pearl Day. Cost: $7.00/person. The Matinée Musicale Series is a multiple-concert recital series of classical music presented by Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Music Director Arie Lipsky and the A2SO's brass, string, and woodwind ensembles.

Friday, October 12
5–7 p.m. Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Community Center present a Senior Shabbat Dinner at JCC. Join us in a delicious meal, musical accompaniment and a short Senior-oriented Shabbat service. $15 meal. Call the JCC, 971-0990 to make a reservation and to pre-pay. Make check out to JCC (Senior).

Monday October 22
1–2:30 pm. JCC Newman Lounge.
We will show the film *Almonds and Raisins: A History of Yiddish Cinema* narrated by Orson Welles. This 90-minute feature interesperses film clips and interviews of Yiddish actors and directors from this re-emerging popular genre.



EMU Hillel now independent foundation

Clara Silver, special to the WJN

Hillel at Eastern Michigan University became an independent foundation on July 1, 2007. Clara Silver, director of Hillel at EMU since September 2006, describes the history, "Hillel at EMU started about ten years ago as an expansion of Hillel of Metropolitan Detroit (HMD) with only a part-time program associate. Hard work combined with strong community support has built a vibrant Hillel foundation with two full-time professional staff and five student interns." Through the generous support of the Jewish Federations of Metropolitan Detroit and Washtenaw County, as well as many community supporters, Hillel at EMU has been able to grow and flourish; now serving over 1,000 Jewish students representing the broad spectrum of Jewish experience.

According to Eileen Freed, acting director of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, "Hillel at EMU's new independent status reflects the increased vibrancy of Jewish life on the Eastern Michigan University campus and is a testament to the talents and efforts of the Hillel staff, students, and lay leadership. Hillel at EMU has developed into THE address for Jewish life and social justice at EMU." The new board of directors reflects this vibrancy, and includes community members from both the Ann Arbor area and the metropolitan Detroit area, which positions Hillel at EMU to build on its recent success.

Hillel at EMU was nominated for a 2007 Gold Medallion, the highest honor awarded by the EMU Division of Student Affairs. Freed remarks that, "The Gold Medallion nomination received by Hillel at EMU is well deserved. EMU students, interns, and staff have set a high bar for creative and meaningful programming." Just a few examples of the programs that helped garner the nomination include the first-ever "Battle of the Bands," the ground-breaking "Under One Roof: Muslim and Jewish Women Coming Together," and "Alternative Spring Break," the week-long Tzedek, or social justice, trip to Miami Florida to participate in a building blitz with Habitat for Humanity.

Locally, Hillel at EMU students are regular supporters of the Washtenaw County area community. Director Silver explains that, "students planned and organized a special activity fair, 'Think Bigger,' with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washtenaw County for children who did not have mentors. Students helped brighten last Chanukah for some clients of Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County who received Chanukah celebration packages, which the students organized and assembled. Other students collected hundreds of canned goods and gleaned fresh produce from local farms for local organizations such as Food Gatherers and SOS Community Services."

Along with a brand new website, www.emuhillel.org, students coming to campus this September will find many exciting Hillel at EMU events, most of which will be planned by Hillel at EMU's three programming interns. The First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) intern, Danielle Lindow, will connect new students with EMU's Jewish campus life. The Green Family Tzedek/Social Justice intern will help students explore important issues that affect our local and global communities such as hunger, sustainability and the environment, genocide, and community activism. The Grinspoon Israel Advocacy intern will bring informal Israel education to campus, and will provide the opportunities for students to experience the culture and global contributions of Israel. Of course, Hillel will continue to provide traditional Shabbat dinners and social programs as well.

Through continued strong community support, Hillel at EMU will keep providing meaningful Jewish experiences and enrich the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. Over 80 percent of EMU graduates remain in Michigan, therefore many of the Hillel at EMU students will become leaders in Michigan's Jewish communities. Director Silver is excited about the future of Hillel at EMU, "the students, staff, and lay leaders are passionate about Jewish campus life. Hillel at EMU is cultivating future Jewish leaders and active participants in Jewish community life. I am eager to continue working with the many Jewish community organizations and community supporters as partners in advancing Jewish life." Hillel at EMU anticipates many more years of vibrant Jewish campus life. ■

Reconstructionist Havurah offers holiday services for young families

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

Family Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be offered this year for young families at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. Under the direction of the Havurah's Beit Sefer (religious school) Director Geoffrey Berdy, these services will include plenty of music, stories, and activities. Family services are geared toward kids tot age through elementary school. Parents are encouraged to attend along with their children, and both kids and parents are needed as volunteers to help with various aspects of the service.

For more information, or to volunteer, call Geoffrey Berdy, 649-8723, or check the Havurah's website, www.aarecon.orghttp://www.aarecon.org.

Apples & Honey program welcomes newcomers

Newcomers to the Ann Arbor area and new members of the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County are invited to visit the Newcomers' Booth at Apples & Honey on September 9 from 1–4 p.m. This free community celebration of the Jewish Fall Holidays will take place at the JCC.

The Newcomers' Booth will offer information about Ann Arbor and the Ann Arbor Jewish community, gifts, coupons and a chance to meet others who have recently moved to the area. Members of the JCC and the Jewish Federation boards will be welcoming newcomers.

Every newcomer will receive a card to be stamped at each station and will then be collected at the end of the visit, at which time the guest will receive a Rosh Hashanah gift.

For more information about the Apples & Honey program and Newcomer's Booth, call Rachel Rosenthal at 971-0990.

TBE Brotherhood News

Marv Wagner, special to the WJN

Temple Beth Emeth's Brotherhood is an organization dedicated to nurturing men's involvement in Temple life. The primary goals are to assist members to become better Jews and better men through increased participation in Temple and Brotherhood activities. Active involvement in the congregation and the community brings the participants together spiritually and socially.

TBE's Brotherhood is one of 250 local affiliates of the MRJ-Men of Reform Judaism (Formerly North American Federation of Temple Brotherhoods) with 25,000 members across North America dedicated to the ideals of Reform Judaism and a role for men in congregational life. In addition, we look for opportunities to participate in national programming and events.

Activities planned for the upcoming year include raising and lowering the TBE Sukkah, sponsoring the Chanukah Latke Dinner, a monthly Limudim (learning) lecture series, a monthly men's rap/discussion group, an annual Brotherhood retreat, summer and fall softball, and much more.

The brotherhood maintains an up-to-date calendar, as well as photos of past events, at www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood. For more information, visit the website or contact Brotherhood President Marv Wagner at 327-9149.

ORT opening brunch

Joan Levitt, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor chapter of ORT America will host its Opening Brunch on Sunday, October 7 at 10 a.m. at the home of Sue Adler.

The theme of this year's brunch is "ORT in Mexico." It will feature excellent Mexican food prepared by ORT members. The program will highlight the ORT School in Mexico, which is making a big difference in the lives of students in Mexico City.

The Opening Brunch is a time to learn about how ORT helps students around the world. It is also a great opportunity to meet old and new friends, and to learn about the exciting programs the Ann Arbor chapter is planning for the coming year.

ORT was established in 1880 in Tsarist Russia to provide vocational and technological education for Jews. Today, through its network of schools, colleges and centers, ORT provides training and education for nearly 270,000 students in 56 countries, enabling them to compete in the rapidly changing market of the 21st century.

ORT members and potential members are invited to attend this opening event. For more information or to RSVP, contact Joan Levitt at 665-5061, or email jflevitt@comcast.net.

Hadassah opening event

This year's Hadassah opening event is the Regional Fall Conference with the theme of "Under the Red Tent." The Ann Arbor Hadassah chapter is hosting this weekend-long event October 19–21 at The Campus Inn. Hadassah members from chapters in Ohio, Kentucky, and Michigan will be meeting to socialize, learn and inspire each other.

An exciting program is planned with speakers on the topics of Israel today, Jewish women and philanthropy, organ donation and political empowerment. Other activities will include yoga and Jewish meditation and entertainment by a local comedian and Hillel choir Kol Hakavod. Participants can register for the whole weekend or for the day only. Membership in Hadassah is not required to attend. There will be registration reimbursements available for first-time attendees to a Regional conference. To receive an invitation to the conference, if you would like one, contact Eileen Thacker at tethacker@yahoo.com or Martha Young at 769-7523.

Workshops for interfaith couples and their families

Intermarried couples and their relatives are encouraged to attend two upcoming workshops at Temple Beth Emeth. The first workshop, "Eggs, Plagues, Trees & Dreidels: Navigating the Holidays in the Interfaith Family," will be held on Sunday, October 7, from 3–5 p.m. The second workshop, "Bris, Baptism, Bat Mitzvah: Navigating Lifecycle Events in the Interfaith Family" will be held on Sunday, December 2, from 3–5 p.m.

Both workshops feature a panel and breakout discussion groups. These workshops are great for people celebrating Judaism in the home and wanting to know more. Childcare will be available with advanced notice.

TBE's interfaith couples' discussion group meets monthly. Non-members and relatives of an intermarried couple (Jewish/not Jewish) are welcome. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 or dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

Local authors sought for JCC annual Book Festival

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Jewish Book Festival is searching for local authors who would like to promote their new books through the Book Festival. This year's Jewish Book Festival will take place from Sunday, November 11 through Sunday, November 18.

Books must be written by a Jewish author or have Jewish content. They also must have been published within the last year. To submit a book or for further information, contact Leslie Bash or Rachel Rosenthal at 971-0990. Submissions must be received by Friday, September 7.

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Washtenaw Jewish News

University of Michigan welcomes Frankel Institute Fellows

Matt Weingarden, special to the WJN

The Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies is pleased to welcome its first cohort of scholars for the upcoming academic year. Arriving from around the globe, the Institute Fellows represent a broad range of scholarly interests and areas of expertise. While in Ann Arbor, the Institute Fellows will enjoy the opportunity to do individual research and collaborative projects under the common theme of "Jews & the City." For information on how to contact the Frankel Institute Fellows or to learn more about Frankel Institute events, call 763-9047 or email JudaicStudies@umich.edu.

The Institute Fellows and their individual research projects

Murray Baumgarten,
professor of literature, University of California Santa Cruz

Wrestling with the Angel: Civic Virtue and Modern Jewish Writing

Murray Baumgarten will analyze the diary of Venetian Rabbi Leone Modena, the first modern Hebrew autobiography. In it, Rabbi Modena reveals the fault lines of his identity—caught between exilic despair and diasporic possibility. Baumgarten will explore the ways in which these polarities come to define character and community in modern and urban Jewish writings. Building on this work, he will consider how modern works written in Yiddish, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish, and English illuminate the theme of identity wrestling as it has emerged from contemporary Jewish women writers.

(September 2007 – December 2007)

Lila Corwin-Berman,
assistant professor of history, Pennsylvania State University

Sprawling Judaism: Authenticity in the American Suburbs

An historian of modern Jewish and American religious experience, Lila Corwin Berman poses the question: how does physical space shape religion and identity, and how do these forces, in turn, create physical environments? While at the Frankel Institute, Berman will examine the geographic shift of American Jews from the urban to suburban world. She will challenge the established position that the postwar suburbs were places of religious decline and middle class dullness, arguing that suburbs possessed a sacred geography of their own. Berman plans to map the various ways in which Jews locate their Judaism in suburban space, transforming themselves and their landscapes in the process.

(September 2007 – April 2008)

Sara Blair,
professor of English, University of Michigan

View from Below: Photography & Urban Vision on the Lower East Side

A scholar of 20th century literature, modernism, photography and visual culture, Sara Blair is exploring the ongoing importance of the Lower East Side to the development of modern photographic practice. From the early 20th century through the present time, photographers have exploited the distinctive spaces of the Lower East Side to generate new ways of apprehending modernity. Blair hopes to bring attention to the entangled careers of Jews in the city, the photographic aesthetics they shaped to respond to the urban landscape, and the changing forms of visual knowing that were in turn shaped by their work.

(September 2007 – April 2008)

Deborah Dash Moore,
Frederick G. L. Huetwell professor of History,
University of Michigan

Jewish Photographers and American Cities

American-Jewish historian Deborah Dash Moore will observe how Jewish American photographers have been culturally and institutionally well situated to expose the visual consequences of modernity. Beginning with Jewish photographers connected to the New York Photo League, she will study how their street photography can be understood as a mode of existential ethnography. Dash Moore will continue with another generation of Jewish photographers who, after the League closed, reconceived the family album as a template for re-imagining strands of kinship. These projects expose a persistent concern with a moral responsibility for looks given, taken, and withheld.

(September 2007–April 2008)

Gil Klein, Fellow,
Getty Research Institute

Consecrating the City: Rabbinic Ritual Topography in Late Antique Galilean Towns

An historian of urban architecture and material culture in rabbinic literature, Klein plans to examine various rabbinic gatherings in the major Galilean towns as a form of ritual, establishing an urban topography. This provides insight into the rabbinic constitution of a coherent sense of urban community. The acknowledgement of cities as a significant subject for the late antique rabbis is a new development and Klein's work will contribute to this understanding by developing an integrative method of working with urban and literary theories.

(September 2007 – April 2008)

Scott Lerner,
associate professor of French and Italian,
Franklin and Marshall College

From Ghetto to Monumental Synagogue: Narrative & Jewish Identity in the Capitals of Risorgimento Italy

In Italy, the story of Jewish emancipation was recounted on urban landscapes by means of a physical move from an actual ghetto. Scott Lerner's work explains that this story was continued by what he has referred to as the "narrating of architecture" of the monumental synagogues, built over the ruins of the demolished ghettos (sometimes figuratively and other times literally, as in Rome). Lerner hopes to focus on the passage from the real ghetto to construction of synagogues as principal signifiers of Jewishness in three Italian cities—Turin, Florence and Rome—each of which simultaneously served as the capital of a new nation.

(September 2007 – April 2008)

Julian Levinson,
Samuel Shetzer associate professor of American Jewish Studies and English,
University of Michigan

Metal, Granite, Uproar: Jewish Modernism in the Cauldron of New York

In an exploration of the ways in which Jewish writers have represented the modern metropolis—in particular New York City—Julian Levinson will show how a range of texts written in Yiddish, Hebrew and Yiddish focus on the dizzying spectacle of New York. Levinson will illuminate how different languages equip Jewish writers with different tools for articulating the experience of modernity. He will discuss New York City in a cultural context and as a literary symbol—simultaneously imagined as an agent of cultural dissolution and as a site of cultural renewal.

(September 2007 – April 2008)

Barbara Mann,
associate professor of Jewish literature,
Jewish Theological Seminary

The Meaning of Space: Between the Academy and Jewish Studies

Through an exploration of space within Jewish culture, Barbara Mann will investigate the spatial turn within the humanities and social sciences, as manifested in the field of Jewish Studies. She will focus on the normative meanings of space in canonical texts from the bible to the modern era and consider how space has figured in contemporary scholarship. Given Judasim's particular relation to space, Mann aspires to broaden the discussion of space within the academy as a whole.

(September 2007 – December 2007)

Alona Nitzan-Shiftan,
senior lecturer of architecture, Israel Institute of Technology

Designing Politics: Architecture, Nationalism and Judaism in Post-'67 Jerusalem

Combining interests in architecture and politics, Alona Nitzan-Shiftan seeks to create the first architectural history of Israel's monumental efforts to reunify Jerusalem after 1967. Nitzan-Shiftan will explore how Israeli politics played a role in the spatial and aesthetic configuration of the contest over the territorial, historical and religious meaning of Jerusalem and how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict included the city's urban image.

(September 2007 – April 2008)

Shachar Pinsker,
assistant professor of Hebrew and Jewish culture, University of Michigan

Spatializing the Margins: The European Cities of Hebrew Modernism 1900-1930

A scholar of Modern Hebrew and Jewish Literature, Shachar Pinsker plans to study the role of European cities in Hebrew modernist literature. Maturing during the first three decades of the twentieth century, several cities in Eastern, Central and Western Europe emerged as crucial to the development of Hebrew Modernism in many guises: as literary centers and "satellites," as sites for contact and interaction with other literatures part of "international Modernism," and as objects of literary representation. Thus, Pinsker plans to explore the complex relations between Modernism, Jewish cultures and the City.

(September 2007 – December 2007)

Catherine Rottenberg,
lecturer of gender studies, Ben-Gurion University

Jews and Blacks in New York City

Catherine Rottenberg will examine the representation of the Lower East Side and Harlem in modern Jewish and African-American literature, exploring how the "borders" of these "racialized" urban enclaves are depicted, and under what conditions characters are allowed to access "white" areas of the city. Rottenberg proposes that the literatures' relationship to space has much to tell about the different ways Jews and Blacks negotiated their "racial" and class identities. It may explain how the two groups positioned themselves in relation to (and were positioned by) dominant white US society.

(September 2007 – April 2008)

Yael Shenker,
instructor of Hebrew literature, University of Jerusalem

Representatives of West Bank Settlements in Fiction and Cinema of Israel

A scholar of religion and nationality in Orthodox literary discourse, Yael Shenker plans to study the different ways in which Jewish and Palestinian centers of population—towns, villages and settlements—are presented in literature and cinema by writers and directors identified with the nationalist religious community in Israel. The aim of her study is to examine the ways in which these texts confront a perceived threat to living space.

Veerle Vanden Daelen,
academic collaborator assistant, University of Antwerp

Experiences of Jewishness and Clustering in a City as Perceived by Jews and non-Jews: The City of Antwerp since World War II in Comparative Perspectives

Diverse characteristics can mark Jewish inhabitants of a city as Jewish, as a minority group. The aim of Vanden Daelen's project is to study which markers exist, to whom they are relevant, and what they may mean. An analysis of Orthodox Jewish life in Antwerp serves as a starting point for a comparative and larger research of cities in Western Europe and the United States since the end of World War II. She expects to clearly outline markers and borders of Jewishness and interpret their impact for both Jews and non-Jews.

(January 2008 – April 2008)

Deborah Yalen,
post-doctorate,
University of California Berkeley

Eradicating the Distinctions between City and Countryside: Jews, Urbanization, and the Shtetl in Fin-de-Siecle Russia and the Soviet Union

A student of Eastern European history, Deborah Yalen will examine how late Imperial Russian and early Soviet Jewish demographers shaped narratives of Jewish urbanization through their interpretations of the 1897 Imperial and 1926 Soviet censuses. Yalen will approach the topic by considering the shtetl as an intermediary space between the countryside and city – the spaces utilized to gauge backwardness and modernization. Throughout, the perceptions of Jewish urbanization were influenced by the agrarian, weakly industrialized autocracy and then by a utopian, Marxist-Leninist party-state that anticipated dissolution of urban/rural boundaries.

(September 2007 – April 2008)

The Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan provides annual fellowships for scholars and artists from around the world to conduct research within a given theme. Established through a generous financial contribution from the Jean and Samuel Frankel Jewish Heritage Foundation, the Frankel Institute is the only one of its kind at a public university in the United States. The Institute is committed to interdisciplinary, multilingual work spanning ancient times through the contemporary era. By combining intellectual autonomy and depth with the ideal of a scholarly community, it aims to offer global leadership in Jewish Studies.

Applications are now being accepted for 2008-09 Institute Fellowships under the theme "Studying Jews: New Topics, New Methods, New Directions." The application deadline is October 19, 2007. For a detailed description and application materials, visit http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic or call 763-9047.

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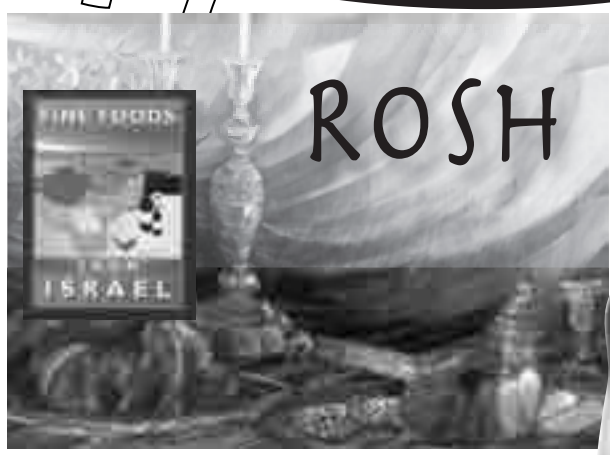

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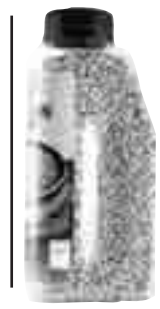

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Beth Israel Congregation trip to Israel extraordinary experience

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

Jewish tradition has always believed that the important things in life are better done in community. We pray in a minyan, study with a partner (*hevruta*), and join together with others to celebrate and, *lihavdil*, to make a separation, mourn our losses.

There is no commandment or tradition which says that traveling ought to be done in a group; but as I think about my experiences traveling this summer in Israel with more than 60 Beth Israel members, extended family and close friends, I can say without any hesitation: this was an extraordinary experience and it wouldn't have been the same if I, or any of us, had been traveling alone.

I had circled the dates of June 24-July 9, 2007 on the calendar when I first began thinking about a group trip to Israel two years ago. We have taken congregational trips before, the most recent being in 2001, but it was more than past the time to undertake another trip. From the moment we began to make preliminary announcements, the response was overwhelming.

This past October, approximately 50 people attended an informational meeting over dinner in Beth Israel's sukkah to begin to talk about expectations and hopes. By the time the deadline came to register we had reached 64 participants, almost three times the number of our largest previous trip.

But the success of this trip was not only about the large number of participants. Working with our tour provider (Keshet: The Center for Educational Tourism in Israel) and other contacts, we were able to build an itinerary which included the "must-see" sites as well as those off the beaten path. We structured a program which would be educational, spiritually inspirational, challenging and, last but certainly not least, fun. Our outstanding guide, Peter Abelow, and I spoke for hours on the phone before the trip to go over details. And, despite a terrible heat wave when we first arrived, we left from the airport to plant trees at Neot Kedummim, the Biblical Landscape Park, and it seemed we rarely stopped until we boarded the El Al plane two weeks later.

Among the most memorable moments were:

• Participating in "hands-on" *tzedaka* projects delivering food to the needy in Jaffa and Tel Aviv, and packing food boxes for delivery throughout Israel

• Spending a quiet, inspirational and joyous Shabbat in Tzefat and following Havdalah with singing and dancing on a rooftop in the Old City

• Hiking through Nahal David in Ein Gedi and to a waterfall in a secluded canyon in the Golan

• Visting places of significance including Independence Hall, (the Memorial to Yitzhak Rabin) and Yad Vashem (the Holocaust memorial)

• Discussing the political situation with people from various perspectives including the director of Rabbis for Human Rights, Rabbi Arik Ascherman and a resident of Gush Etzion

• Visiting institutions large and small, and serving different populations including Neve Hana, a children's village in Kiryat Gat; ALYN hospital for children in Jerusalem; and Pinat Ham, a place for soldiers on duty to gather for calm and warmth during difficult times

• Davening in various different places including on top of Masada, at the Kotel in Jerusalem and in the Mesorti (Conservative) syngogue in Tzefat

• Camping out in a Bedouin-style tent in the Negev

• Meeting many Ann Arborites in Israel, including those studying at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem and those who made aliyah.

Through it all, there was the sense that what we were seeing and what we were experiencing had not only historical and national significance but a spiritual dimension as well. It was my privilege to be able to teach Torah while swaying on a bus climbing the hills of the Galilee, and also while gathering in the cooling shade of an ancient building in Tzippori, in the synagogue at Masada, and on early morning walks in Jerusalem.

And through it all, there were the kids. Our group included more than a dozen children who played and sang and hiked and swam their way through Israel, building a stronger connection with the land and laying the foundation for future high school or college trips to deepen their connection with Israel further.

When Moses approached Pharaoh with the statement "Let my people go," Pharaoh asked "Who would be going?" Moses answered: "We will go with our elders and our young children." What made this trip most remarkable to me was that we traveled with so many different people: young and old, first timers and veteran travelers, observant and not so observant, those on the right politically, those on the left and all points in between. While there, these vastly different people formed a *hevra*, a group of friends and study partners to learn and to understand more of what Israel is about, why we should care and what we hope for.

As I write this article, there are once again possibilities on the horizon for better times for Israel and its neighbors. This was one reality that was particularly evident through our trip. Of course, we felt safe. And, of course, we felt pride. But we all knew and saw very clearly that through all that Israel has become, its continued growth and continued stability and continued meaning for all of us depend upon a resolution to the problems which plague the region.

One of the most moving presentations we heard was from Taly, the guide who spoke to us at Independence Hall, the site of the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948. She told us that nothing upsets her more than when people say that Israelis are accustomed to sending their children into the army and accept the possibility of war as the reality of life in Israel. She begged us all to realize that the status quo is not acceptable for any Israeli; and that no matter how proud Israelis might be in the courage of their young people, no one wants to see continued hostilities as the permanent future of Israel.

This message never left us as we traveled throughout the land. What a beautiful place! What wonderful people! What great accomplishments and what a wonderful future! But that future completely depends upon reaching the greatest and most beautiful dream of all: the dream of peace, peace within Israel, peace with Israel's neighbors, peace in the world.

Our trip helped all of us understand better the challenges Israel faces, her hopes and dreams for the future, and to feel a greater part of what is happening there.

And I, as a rabbi, am privileged to have helped so many people be part of this experience. ■

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Thoughts of Israel

Neal Elyakin, special to the WJN

We've been excited about this trip since last Sukkot. Rabbi Dobrusin had a meeting with potential participants and said a congregational trip to Israel during the summer of 2007 would be a great opportunity to strengthen our ties to our synagogue and to Israel, and to meet new people. Indeed.

We returned reluctantly to Michigan after three weeks of joy; two weeks with over 60 other Beth Israel congregants and friends, and an extra week visiting our family in Kibbutz Shamir.

Israel is our homeland. Its continued survival is what we pray for, what we work for, and what we know is a part of our spiritual survival. Standing in Independence Hall, the place David Ben-Gurion announced the establishment of the State of Israel; we were awed by the simplicity of the place. We were equally awed by our speaker's passionate love for this Promised Land. Our tears were tears of joy, pride, and love for this country and the people who made it happen.

The picture of the families standing on a sand dune in Tel Aviv in 1909 establishing the city was in the same place as where the declaration of independence was made. Looking at those people, standing in their European attire parceling out land purchased to establish the city, I wondered about their passion, their belief in the Promised Land. I was again in awe of that commitment to the land of Israel.

We traveled by bus (actually, two buses) for the next two weeks to the very north and the very south. We visited former Syrian bunkers in Gadot in the Golan Heights and looked at how easy it was to target the Hula Valley and beyond. We visited a lovely little spot where soldiers can take a break and enjoy a nice home baked cake, cookie, or a bit of coffee prepared by the wife of a doctor killed by a terrorist's bullet as he drove home from the hospital after treating Palestinian patients. We saw the beauty of the Jezreel Valley, the fields (including my old kibbutz's cotton fields where I worked in the 1970s) and the villages. We visited the Moshav of Nahalal, where Ann Arbor has had a deep relationship with the local school through the Partnership 2000 program. While there, we were hosted by some of the families and treated to a lovely presentation by some of the school's teachers and students.

The Negev is a desert, yet not. It's full of life, and beauty. We stood on the edge of the Ramon Crater at night and thought about our ancestors who stood similarly and accepted without reservation our Torah. We watched the sun rise from the top of Masada, saw the remains of the Roman encampments surrounding that marvelous mountain, and considered the awful decision that was made that day not to surrender to the Roman legions. We had lunch in Yerucham, near Beer Sheva, served by a Moroccan family in their home. We listened to the story of an Ethiopian woman, who walked through the desert, survived a Sudanese refugee center, and made it to Israel where she now lives with her family.

Israel is a place like no other on earth. Perhaps that is why it is so important that we protect it, support it, visit it, and live it.

Our Shabbats were magical. In Safed our group had a Shabbat dinner on a rooftop overlooking the mystical city. Our activities included a presentation by a former Michigan resident who now writes, paints, and talks of mysticism in Safed. In Jerusalem for our second Shabbat, we dined, sang and talked of our faith. My visit to the Italian synagogue was memorable, more for the vision of my seven-year-old son peering out from the balcony with a look of wonder in his eyes than for the beauty of the interior, ornate decorations.

Jerusalem is magnificent. For almost a week (we stayed in Jerusalem after the group went back to Michigan) we walked around the city, sometimes with a guide and sometimes on our own, we visited the requisite places (Haas promenade, the Jewish Quarter, the kotel (Western Wall), the southern excavations, City of David, tunnels, Ben Yehuda Street) and some out of the way places as well. We saw how easily you can walk or drive into the eastern section of the city, how close the neighborhoods of Gilo are to the rest of the city. We took a ride to Efrat in Gush Etzion, the block of settlements just outside Jerusalem. We listened to impassioned speakers on topics near and dear to them as well as many in Israel. A representative from Rabbis for Human Rights spoke of the need to fight for the human rights for all, regardless of politics. Someone from Efrat spoke to us passionately about the Gush Etzion block of settlements and the West Bank and their importance in and around Jerusalem and for Israel.

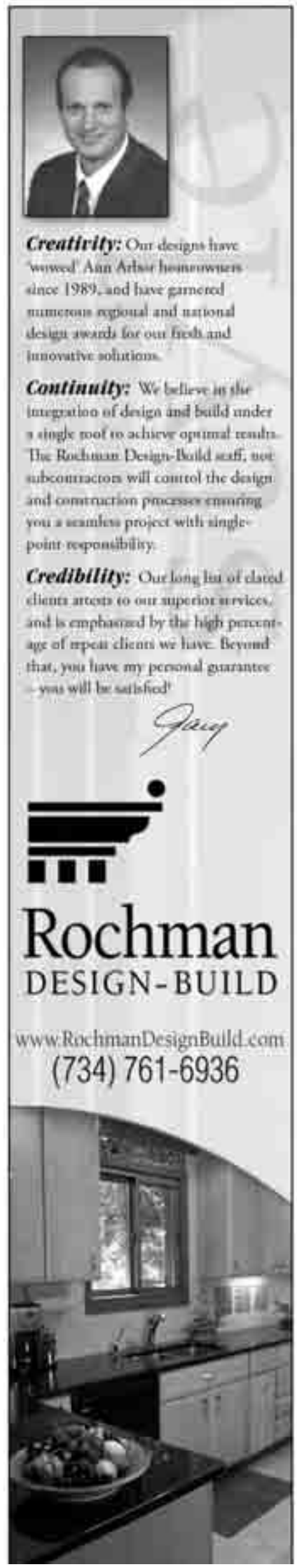
Tzedekah played an important role in our trip. We helped deliver food packages with Israeli high school students to the needy in Jaffa. We visited a youth village that houses and helps abused youth; we packed up food boxes in Jerusalem and visited Alyn, a hospital that treats all children (with no regard to religion, nationality or ethnicity) who have severe orthopedic conditions.

Our children were a group onto themselves. Our tour company arranged for two tour guides and two youth counselors. There were about 18 children on our trip. The counselors created a cohort that included all the kids. My son was the youngest, with a group of preteens and teens, yet within a few short days, they were a cohesive group. Their experience will stay with them, largely due to the skills of the counselors.

We were a diverse group; the oldest was 84 and youngest was seven. Our guides were superb at bringing us together. I must mention Peter Abelow of Keshet (our tour company). My wife described him as the best college professor you could ever have. I'd add that his knowledge base, along with his group skills, helped make the experience truly a "once in a lifetime" trip to Israel.

I've been to Israel many times. I lived in Israel for several years and have family there. I've gone on Federation missions and traveled extensively throughout the country. I've been to Israel with my family several times, traveling to many places. This trip, with Rabbi Dobrusin and 60 other members of Beth Israel (and a few family members from elsewhere) was special. My wife Bunky and I came back with a sense of direction, one that will assuredly take us back to Israel.

We returned here knowing that we belong there. Israel is a place like no other on earth. Perhaps that is why it is so important that we protect it, support it, visit it, and live it. This coming Sukkot, as we break bread under the Sukkah, we will reflect on the year that has passed and the experience we had in Israel. May it come to pass again that we have the opportunity to travel along together in our land of promise, Israel. ■



A two thousand year journey: Israel to Ethiopia and back

A three-part series

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

This July, I had the opportunity to participate in the United Jewish Communities (UJC) Campaign Chairs and Directors (CCD) Mission in which 170 Jewish leaders traveled back and forth through time to learn first hand about the incredible journey and challenges of Israel's Ethiopian community. I was accompanied on the mission by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County's 2008 Campaign Chair (and my husband), Gary Freed.

Landing in Addis Ababa

Just 12 hours after landing in Israel, we left on an Ethiopian Airlines charter flight to Addis Ababa, arriving as the sun began to rise. Our drive from the airport gave us the opportunity to see some of the city in which contrasts between rich and poor were quite evident. Even that could not prepare us for the juxtaposition of our palatial hotel literally 100 yards from a huge and incredibly impoverished shantytown. The seven-star Sheraton Hotel in which we stayed is owned by an Arab oil magnate and, among other amenities, has magnificent grounds and swimming pools and heavily guarded and gated security. Right outside the hotel fence families, many of which have come from the countryside looking for work, live in decrepit shacks on streets heavy with muck and mud from rain and sewage. In spite of the mean conditions, there is a sense of order and dignity. Residents are careful to cover the spigots at public water stations with plastic sacks, and a sign warns of penalties for public urination.

Walking through the shanty town across the street from the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa.

After this introduction to the gross inequities of a third world country, the group began visiting the various facilities and programs run by UJC's partners, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Jewish Agency (JAFI) responsible for humanitarian aid and immigration services for a group known as the Falas Mura.

History of Ethiopian Jews

In order to understand the Falas Mura, it is necessary to take a step back. There are many stories regarding the origin of the Ethiopian Jewish community. But whether descended from the tribe of Dan, early traders to Africa, or King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, it was clear from the time of their "discovery" nearly 100 years ago, that this was a group of Jews with strong attachment to their traditions and a history of discrimination not dissimilar to the experience of Jewish populations in other parts of the world.

In the 1980's and early 1990's the majority of Ethiopia's Jewish population, known as Beta Yisrael, arrived in Israel, primarily through two major projects: Operation Moses and Operation Solomon. During Operation Moses in 1984, 8,000 Ethiopians were airlifted from the refugee camps of Sudan to Israel. At least another 4,000 died of starvation, illness, and at the hands of unscrupulous guides as they crossed the desert to follow their dreams of reaching "Jerusalem." Because of the danger posed by Ethiopia's civil war and communist government in the late 1980's and early 1990's, a coalition of groups resolved to bring the remainder of Ethiopia's Jews home to Israel. Jews from villages primarily in the Gondar area in the mountainous northern region of Ethiopia descended on Addis Ababa with the promise of being brought to Zion. On May 25 and 26 of 1991, in a period of just 36 hours, 14,324 Jews were airlifted out of the surrounded city to begin a new life in Israel.

The Falas Mura

If the Ethiopian exodus was completed in 1991, then who are the Falas Mura, almost 21,000 of whom will have made aliyah by the end of December 2008? The Falas Mura are Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity during the past one hundred years for a variety of reasons including avoidance of discrimination or the desire to make a better life for one's village and family. In many cases, missionaries used the strength in numbers of local Christians to forcibly convert Jews to Christianity. Though promised "full "recognition and rights" following conversion, many of the converts found themselves not fully accepted by their Christian neighbors and strangers in the Jewish community.

During Operation Solomon some 3,000 of these Falas Mura were not included in the airlift and were left behind in Addis Ababa. The North American Conference of Ethiopian Jewry and many in the Ethiopian community in Israel took up their cause, and the Falas Mura community was recognized by the Chief Rabbinate as "being among the seed of Israel," eligible, under certain conditions, to make aliyah and undergo a formal re-conversion process, returning to Judaism. Since 1995, the Falas Mura have been immigrating to Israel, and a census indicated that, with a concerted effort, all eligible remaining Falas Mura could be brought to Israel by the end of 2008.

Waiting for aliyah

The Falas Mura waiting for aliyah live in the Gondar where they receive medical and other humanitarian aid, undergo interviews and examinations to determine their eligibility, and wait, sometimes as long as ten years, to join their families in Israel. Next month's article will focus on our travels in the Gondar region. Back in Addis Ababa, those Falas Mura who have been granted permission to immigrate are brought the capital for the final two to three weeks of preparation.

There are three transit homes for these families, and they receive small cash assistance and basic supplies. On the grounds of the Israeli embassy, they receive medical examinations and care as well as the vaccines required in Israel. Most importantly, they attend classes designed to give them a rudimentary introduction to life in western society. While we would only see the conditions from which they came during the second leg of our Ethiopian journey, it was evident from what was taught in the classes that there would be an enormous and difficult adjustment upon arrival in Israel. Some of the things to which these village farmers were introduced include: brushing teeth with a toothbrush and toothpaste (even unscrewing a toothpaste tube was new), lighting and putting out a gas stove (no, you don't blow out the flame), using a toilet and diapers, and storing food in a strange cold box. There was amazed concentration in the faces of the immigrants as they discovered these wonders.

We had the opportunity to meet a family who was to fly to Israel in the next few weeks. Demica, a farmer, and his wife Gabri have eight children ages 10 months to 18 years old. They were anxious to join their family in Kiryat Gat—they have not seen each other in 15 years. While at the embassy, we met Mola (also a farmer), his wife Yamekesh and their three children. They had been waiting for nine years since they left their small village for the chance to start a new life in Israel and rejoin their relatives there. They are eager to return to Judaism, and their children are excited about starting school (aliyah for families with children is being accelerated to get all school-age children to Israel by this December, so they can begin their education as soon as possible). We assisted JAFI staff in distributing new clothes and backpacks so the children would be able to start school prepared with the supplies other Israeli children possess. I also had the pleasure of teaching a few adorable children to blow bubbles! The excitement and nervousness about their impending aliyah was palpable, but throughout the process, the adults and children exhibited a mild and sweet demeanor. I was struck by the absolutely beautiful behavior of the children at every stage of what must be a stressful endeavor.

A new friend proudly shows off the new backpack he will wear the next day on his way home to Israel.

Falas Mura children approved for aliyah play in the courtyard of their transition residence. In just two weeks they will be in Israel.

In the Israeli Embassy compound, children and parents discover the delights of blowing bubbles.

We left this final stage in the long ordeal of the Falas Mura to emigrate from Ethiopia and returned to the palace from where, in a few short hours, we would travel to Gondar—back in time some 2000 years. ■

Next month: The long road from village life in the mountains of Ethiopia to Ben Gurion Airport.

5767: A chronology of top news

Compiled by Justin Sulsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — The following is a chronology of the top news items of the past year.

OCTOBER

BERLIN — The remains of more than 50 people, many of them children, were discovered in a mass grave in Menden, Germany. Experts suspected the dead were victims of the Nazis' so-called euthanasia program, in which disabled people were murdered.

JERUSALEM — Israel said it would continue Air Force flights over Lebanon. Defense Minister Amir Peretz said the surveillance flights over Lebanon were needed to track arms shipments to Hezbollah combatants from neighboring Syria, two months after a cease-fire ended what would be later designated as Israel's Second Lebanon War.

NOVEMBER

WASHINGTON — The Democratic Party won back the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time since 1994 and also gained control of the Senate. Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.), the Orthodox Jew who was the Democrats' vice presidential nominee in 2000, kept his seat even though he lost in the Democratic primary to liberal Ned Lamont. Six new Jewish members of Congress and two new Jewish senators were elected. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), who has close ties to many Jewish groups, was chosen as Speaker of the House.

LOS ANGELES — The United Jewish Communities refocused its annual General Assembly to focus on fundraising for rebuilding Israel's North after the country's war in Lebanon. By the time of the G.A., the UJC had raised $320 million for its Israel Emergency Campaign. By the end of the Jewish year, it has raised some $360 million.

JERUSALEM —Talks on forming a unity government in the Palestinian Authority were suspended. Palestinians had hoped that by bringing the more moderate Fatah into the government, a Western aid embargo imposed when Hamas came to power in March could be removed. But the Islamist terrorist group rejected donor nations' conditions that it recognize Israel and renounce terrorism.

DECEMBER

NEW YORK — The Conservative movement's legal authorities approved a rabbinic opinion allowing ordination of gay and lesbian rabbis and sanctioning same-sex unions. The move followed years of internal debate over whether to reverse the traditional ban on gay clergy. The Jewish Theological Seminary's new chancellor, Arnie Eisen, later announced it would accept gay and lesbian students to its rabbinical and cantorial schools.

JERUSALEM — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hosted a conference in Tehran that brought together Holocaust revisionists including David Duke and members of Neturei Karta, an ultra-orthodox anti-Zionist group. The two-day conference titled "The International Conference to Review the Global Vision of the Holocaust" sparked international outrage.

NEW YORK —Casino mogul Sheldon Adelson and his wife, Miriam, made their first pledge of $5 million to help bankroll birthright israel trips. That gift was followed up in February by an additional $25 million and another $30 million in August.

NEW YORK — The U.N. Security Council voted to impose sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program. The resolution demanded that Tehran end all research on uranium enrichment and halt research and development that can make or deliver atomic weapons. The resolution, watered down to meet Russian demands, did not permit the use of force if Iran does not comply.

JANUARY

JERUSALEM — Longtime Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek died.

WALTHAM, Mass. — Former President Jimmy Carter discussed his controversial book, *Palestine: Peace not Apartheid*, at Brandeis University. The book, published in November, blamed Israel for the failure of Middle East peace. It sparked widespread debate and prompted 14 Jewish members of the Carter Center board to resign in protest. Democratic leaders had distanced themselves from Carter's views.

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian suicide bomber killed three in an Eilat bakery. Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aksa Military Brigades, a Fatah-linked group, claimed responsibility for the attack.

FEBRUARY

JERUSALEM — Masorti Jews reached a compromise with the government over the freedom of men and women to daven together at an area of the Western Wall. Israel's Conservative movement dropped its Supreme Court appeal after the government agreed to enforce mixed groups' ability to worship for free at a site at the southern end of the Wall.

JERUSALEM — U.S. Secretary of State Condolezza Rice, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas met in Jerusalem. Olmert and Rice reiterated the international preconditions for the resumption of aid to the P.A. — renouncing violence, recognizing Israel and adhering to past peace accords.

BERLIN — Vandals sprayed neo-Nazi graffiti on a Jewish kindergarten in Berlin and attempted to set fire to the building. The incident marked a new level in attacks on Jews in Germany.

MARCH

JERUSALEM — An Israeli government report found that Israel's Muslim minority has a far greater birth rate than the Jewish majority. Data released by the Industry and Trade Ministry showed Jewish women had an average of 2.69 children, compared to Muslim women who give birth, on average, to 4 children.

BERLIN — A German court sentenced Germar Rudolf to two and a half years in jail for anti-Jewish incitement and Holocaust denial. He claimed in a 1991 article that the Nazis did not gas Jews at Auschwitz. Rudolf was sentenced to 14 months by a German court in 1995, but fled the country. He was deported in November 2005.

APRIL

NEW YORK — Liviu Librescu was one of 32 victims killed by a student gunman at Virginia Tech. The engineering professor, a Holocaust survivor who had moved to Israel, was shot while blocking the doorway to his classroom. He prevented the South Korean gunman from entering and enabled all but one of his students to escape through the window.

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, delivered a message to Syrian leader Bashar Assad, saying Israel is ready to talk peace. Israeli Prime Minister Olmert immediately issued a "clarification" saying Syria must first end its backing for terrorism. Pelosi and her delegation say they conveyed that message, and Olmert called Pelosi later to smooth over the flap. The White House slammed Pelosi for what officials said was an attempt to conduct an independent foreign policy.

WASHINGTON — Federal Judge T.S. Ellis III rejected a government proposal to close the trial of two former AIPAC staffers. Ellis ruled the request unconstitutional. Former senior staffers Steve Rosen and Weissman were indicted in August 2005 and now face a trial date of Jan. 14 2008.

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court upheld a ban on late-term abortions. Most Jewish groups opposed the decision, which rolled back women's privacy protections established in the court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision

MOSCOW — Russian Jews remembered President Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first democratically elected president, as the one who ended decades of state-sanctioned anti-Semitism.

JERUSALEM — An Israeli governmental report sharply criticized Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's management of the 2006 war in Lebanon. The Winograd Commission's report said there was a "serious failure in exercising judgment, responsibility and prudence" in the government's handling of the war. Despite a 100,000 person rally against Olmert in Tel Aviv and a call from Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni to resign, Olmert stood firm in his decision to stay in office.

SAN FRANCISCO — The Jim Joseph Foundation announced the first of its long-awaited grants, designating four gifts, the largest, $2.5 million, to B'nai B'rith Youth Organization's Youth Professional Initiative. It is estimated that the foundation will give away up to $25 million a year.

MAY

NEW YORK — Edgar Bronfman, who served as president of the World Jewish Congress for nearly 30 years, resigned. The move came two months after Bronfman fired his close associate and a top WJC official, Rabbi Israel Singer. Bronfman claimed Singer stole money from the WJC, an allegation Singer denied. The WJC elected Ronald Lauder as its interim president in June, with officials voicing hope the organization could get past its years of legal and internal wrangling.

JERUSALEM — The Labor Party ousted Amir Peretz as its leader in an internal vote, which followed a government-appointed commission that cited his mishandling of the Second Lebanon War. In the June runoff, former Prime Minister Ehud Barak, beat Ayalon, whom Peretz ultimately backed, by a narrow margin.

JUNE

NEW YORK — The United Jewish Communities passed a $40.2 million budget, allocating a significant portion to a restructuring plan aimed at boosting the sagging campaigns of the North American Jewish federations. According to the plan, the UJC will dissolve its pillar system, beef up its office in Israel to oversee Israel and foreign affairs and ramp up its domestic consulting services to help individual federations.

PRAGUE — Human Rights First released a report concluding that anti-Semitism in Western Europe is at unprecedented levels, and European governments are woefully inept at measuring and thus prosecuting hate crimes.

JERUSALEM — Shimon Peres, 83, was elected Israel's ninth president, a largely ceremonial role, for a seven-year term. The Nobel Prize winner has held virtually every top civilian post in Israel during his 60-year career, including that of prime minister.

JERUSALEM — Hamas gunmen took over the Gaza Strip after routing the rival Fatah at a key Palestinian Authority security compound. Hamas declared victory after seizing the Preventive Security Service compound in Gaza City, a last stronghold of P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah in the coastal territory.

JERUSALEM — Israeli President Moshe Katsav confessed to sexual misconduct under a plea bargain that spared him more serious rape charges and possible prison time. He resigned his presidency early as part of the plea.

JULY

NEW YORK — The Catholic Church's decision to allow the use of the Latin Mass sparked a to-do between Jews and Catholics. Pope Benedict XVI issued a declaration authorizing wider use of the Latin Mass, an older form of Catholic worship that includes a prayer read only on Good Friday for the conversion of the Jews.

WASHINGTON — President Bush announced a major new initiative aimed at bolstering Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The plan included tens of millions of new funding for the Palestinian Authority, as well as $30 billion new military aid to Israel and a reported $20 billion in arms sales to Saudia Arabia. The arms sales to Saudi Arabia was seen as a way to entice Riyadh to attend an American-hosted international peace conference on Israel and the Palestinians in the fall.

HOLLYWOOD, Fla.–The Broward County School Board in South Florida approved two measures that effectively give a green light to the nation's only Hebrew-language charter school. The Ben-Gamla Charter School, to open for the new school year, will be operated by a private company, Academica, under the direction of Adam Siegel, an Orthodox rabbi.

AUGUST

WASHINGTON — More than 100 members of the U.S. House of Representatives signed a letter warning President Bush they would try to stop his proposed arms sale to Saudi Arabia.

PARIS — Jean-Marie Lustiger, a Jewish-born convert to Catholicism who became a top Vatican figure, died. A former archbishop of Paris, he was the son of Polish Jewish refugees but converted while hiding out in Catholic boarding schools during World War II. He said he always considered himself a Jew. Mourners recited Kaddish for him during his funeral at Paris' Notre Dame Cathedral.

NEW YORK — A youth village, sponsored by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which will serve 500 impoverished Rwandan orphans was created. The village is the brainchild of Anne Heyman, a South African-born New York lawyer who was moved to help after learning that 15 percent of Rwandan children are orphans due to genocide.

New Torah for Pardes Hannah: first reading since the Holocaust on Rosh Hashanah

Lucinda Kurtz, special to the WJN

Pardes Hannah, the Jewish Renewal Community of Ann Arbor, welcomes our first Torah during these upcoming High Holidays and welcomes you to join us for this historic occasion. Carried back from Jerusalem by our Reb Elliot Ginsburg in July, it will be read for the first time since the Shoah on the first day of Rosh Hashanah.

Since our inception 13 years ago, Pardes Hannah has grown and developed as a community. As we complete our bar mitzvah year, we are truly excited to welcome Torah and this Torah, in particular, into our lives and our hearts. We are grateful for the outpouring of generosity from members of our Ann Arbor community (and beyond) that helped us gather the resources for this most sacred symbol and text of our tradition.

This Torah was hidden in a cowbarn during the Holocaust by a fleeing resident of Wengerov, Poland, a small town near Warsaw, who miraculously survived and returned for the Torah after the war. The Torah too had survived, but with some smudging in the opening columns. The scroll found its way to a synagogue in Israel but the congregation lacked the funds to repair the Torah and render it "kosher" for reading.

Reb Elliot found the Torah in the care of Machon Ot, Israel's preeminent institute dedicated to repairing and maintaining Torah scrolls. Machon Ot's respected rabbis replaced eight columns (in Bereshit), checked the entire Torah using new computer technology, and showed Elliot how to sew the klaf, the scroll, to the atzei chayyim, the wooden rollers, so that he could hand carry the parchment on the plane.

Pardes Hannah members, Lucinda Kurtz, Miriam Brysk, and Linda Jo Doctor, with Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg, preparing to sew the parchment of the sefer Torah.

Our community was particularly interested in having a Torah rescued from the Holocaust and it seems it was "bashert" that we embrace this Torah and link its past with our present. What a remarkable privilege and honor it is for us at Pardes Hannah to continue the lineage of this Torah in another time and space but with the same sacred intention of honoring our tradition and learning from its "deep story" of our people.

Pardes Hannah will be offering services on Rosh Hashanah Day One and Two, September 13 and 14 at the Jewish Community Center at 2935 Birch Hollow Road. On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, Reb Elliot will be leading a "traditional" Jewish Renewal service using new High Holiday prayer books. Services will be from 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Reb Elliot will lead a Meditative Service on Day Two with the support from other service leaders in the community from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. On Friday, join for a vegetarian potluck lunch at the JCC followed by taschlich at 2:45 p.m. at Brown Park, off Packard behind the Mallett Creek Library. There will be childcare available on both days for toddlers and older children and a Children's Program each day from 11–11:30 a.m.

Pardes Hannah will offer a Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Service and Yom Kippur Day Service at the Friends Meeting House at 1420 Hill Street led by Reb Elliot Ginsburg. The gathering and preparation for Kol Nidre on Friday evening September 21 will start at 6:45 p.m. with Kol Nidre beginning at 7 p.m. Yom Kippur Day services will begin at 9:30 a.m. A restorative yoga offering will be available to congregants at services at 2:45 pm following by meditation and chanting at 4 p.m., followed by Mincha. Yizkor will be at 5:45 p.m. and Neilah at 7 p.m. There will be childcare and a children's program to be announced.

Kabbalat Shabbat Sukkot Service will take place on Friday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a special service on Simchat Torah, at the Friends Meeting House, led by Reb Elliot, on Thursday evening, October 4, to formally dedicate our Torah, rejoice with it, and thank our community for their support. Check the schedule for additional service times and details. Everyone is welcome to join for the Holidays and for regular bimonthly services on the second and fourth Saturday of the month, at 2010 Washtenaw (the Activities Center of Beth Israel Congregation). For more information, see the website at www.pardeshannah.org or call 644-7305. ■

'Praying without Paying' is becoming a more popular option among shuls

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — When 63-year-old Steven Fruh was growing up in Manhattan, his parents did not belong to a synagogue. "They couldn't afford it," he says.

At the High Holidays, they would buy one ticket between them, for the congregation's overflow service in the basement.

"As a kid, I was very affected by this second-rate, third-rate thing," he says. "That's what I grew up with—this one ticket my parents shared, and not even in the main sanctuary."

The only thing that's changed since then is the price. Fifty bucks if you're lucky. Hundreds of dollars if you're not. As summer draws to a close, tens of thousands of unaffiliated American Jews begin the yearly hunt for affordable Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, which fall this year on September 12-14 and September 21-22.

Tickets for these services are usually free for dues-paying members of a congregation, but can be quite expensive for non-members, if they are even available. Price is driven by demand -- these are the only two times of the year that many Jews, synagogue members or not, step inside a shul. And while the extra crowd puts pressure on a synagogue's resources, it can also be a major source of revenue.

In recent years, however, more and more synagogues have begun opening their doors for free on the High Holidays. Some look at it as an outreach strategy aimed at introducing non-members to their congregation, in the hopes they will be so entranced with the community that they will become dues-paying members.

Other congregations view it as a mitzvah, providing worship opportunities for those who cannot afford tickets, or are away from home. Still others emphasize the communal responsibility aspect, explaining that a synagogue should be open to any Jew.

"It's a growing trend, dating back at least to the 1994 G.A. and the 50 percent intermarriage rate," says Mayer Waxman, former director of synagogue services for the Orthodox Union, referring to the General Assembly of the then-United Jewish Appeal that focused on the results of the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey.

"The keruv," or in-gathering, "mentality has entered the mainstream," he says.

Many people credit Chabad-Lubavitch with spearheading the movement for free holiday services across the denominational spectrum. Building on its extensive network of more than 2,000 outreach centers, the movement operates a global search engine, www.chabad.org/HighHolidayServices, which lists free services at its centers around the world.

Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, says there have always been some Conservative synagogues that offer free holiday services, but it's become "much more in vogue this past decade, especially the last five years."

He says the movement encourages synagogues to offer free tickets to a non-member for a year or two, but not forever. They need to ante up and join eventually, and it's up to the synagogues to encourage it.

Some congregations and institutions are going beyond just opening their doors:

• The Young Adults Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia is cosponsoring "Taste of the New Year," a first-time outreach event aimed at students and young Jewish professionals. At the Aug. 29 event, representatives of most local synagogues will hand out sips of kosher wine along with free seats to their High Holiday services.

• Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld of Ohev Shalom-The National Synagogue in Washington is holding a "Honey Giveaway" on Sept. 11, blowing the shofar and giving away free High Holiday tickets at the corner of Connecticut and K.

• Baltimore Hebrew Congregation is expecting 2,000 to 3,000 people for "Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars," a free Rosh Hashanah Eve service that its sponsoring on Sept. 12 at Oregon Ridge Park. Things will get rolling at 5 p.m. with picnicking, family activities and a performance by the Israeli group Seeds of Sun. At sundown, seven shofars will be blown from the hills, and the service will be conducted from a symphony bandshell.

In general, most congregations will give tickets for free to those in financial need, but the person has to ask for it, a process many find embarrassing.

Paul Golin, assistant executive director of the Jewish Outreach Institute, says synagogues should be more helpful. "If you really don't have the room, at least know what other services are going on in your community," he suggests. "That's very rare."

Most congregations of all denominations let young Jews in for free, or at a highly reduced rate.

The Conservative movement sponsors Project Reconnect, encouraging its member synagogues to offer free seats to young alumni of Conservative youth programs. In Manhattan, the High Holy Days Committee of the New York Metropolitan Conference of the Men of Reform Judaism sponsors "Bernie's Services," free services for students, young professionals and faculty members. Three to four hundred people attended last year.

Fewer synagogues are willing to open their doors for free to adults beyond college age. "It's a trend that makes more traditionally structured synagogues nervous," says Golin. "In the liberal movements, a lot of their economic model is built around the number of Jews that only come to synagogue three times a year, so they say, we have to make those days how we support ourselves financially."

While such thinking is widespread, none of the movements keep track of how member congregations' budgets are affected by High Holiday ticket sales.

Some congregations report that offering free services actually helps fundraising.

Last year, Congregation Sinai, a small Conservative synagogue in San Jose, Calif., offered free services for the first time. Congregational President Steve Dick reports they took in more money than in any previous year, as many of those who attended for free made substantial donations afterwards.

"People enjoyed the services, and wanted to contribute," Dick says. "Some even became members. The year before, when we charged for tickets, people felt that was their donation."

Chabad rabbis say free services help membership grow. "Our experience is, get people involved, get them excited, it generates more vitality in the Jewish community. And they say, hey! I want to support this," says Rabbi Mendel Lifshitz, who runs the three-year-old Chabad Jewish Center in Boise, Idaho.

That happened to 60-year-old retail salesman Jan Toas, who moved to the Philadelphia-area two years ago after many years as a self-described "three-times-a-year Jew," loosely affiliated with his family's Reconstructionist synagogue.

He went to the free Rosh Hashanah services last year at Congregation B'nai Abraham, a Lubavitch-led congregation in downtown Philadelphia, liked what he found, and joined up right after the holidays. "It was the most welcoming, non-judgmental place," he explains.

"Our philosophy is, everyone is welcome," says Rabbi Yochonon Goldman, spiritual leader of B'nai Abraham. That is, he admits, "an expensive philosophy, " and he "understands the perspective" of congregations that don't do it."

Even congregations that feel compelled to charge for tickets draw the line at actually turning people away. Congregation B'nai Israel, a small Conservative congregation in Danbury, Conn., charges for tickets, but doesn't check for them at the door.

"We've been doing it for years," says Rabbi Nelly Altenburger. "We have a number of 'regulars' who always show up, and there's always some kvetching."

Recently a board member suggested a "pay as you pray" system, whereby those who only want to come for the holidays would pay reduced dues. The idea was quickly voted down.

"We go back and forth a lot," Altenburger says. "But at the end of the day, we decided we are not going to check. That's not how we see ourselves."

That's not how Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, a gay- and lesbian-friendly congregation in New York, sees itself either. It's had an "Open Door" policy since its founding 15 years ago.

Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum says that for a community that has faced "so many barriers in coming to Judaism" over the years, offering free High Holiday services "has a deeply religious meaning for us, it's not just a strategic move."

And Steven Fruh, the one whose family needed to share one ticket when he was growing up, is now a member of Beth Simchat Torah —these days he "gives significantly" to the congregation to make sure the doors are never closed. ■

Local congregations offer free or reduced priced tickets for some for High Holiday services

WJN staff writers

Beth Israel Congregation offers free tickets to those individuals and families who have moved to Washtenaw County over the past year since Yom Kippur. They also have a reduced membership fee to people aged 35 and under which includes tickets for the High Holidays. Any one with financial difficulties can get reduced or no fees on High Holiday tickets or reduced membership fees. The procedure is a confidential call, addressed by the financial vice-president of the congregation.

Rabbi Goldstein of Congregation Chabad reports that "praying without paying" has been the policy for all the 32 years that Chabad House in Ann Arbor has existed.

Pardes Hannah welcomes all people to all services-High Holidays and Shabbat. A contribution of $180 for nonmembers for the High Holidays or whatever each person feels they are able to contribute is suggested but the group has a policy that no one will ever be turned away. There are no tickets sold and contributions come to the group whenever each person is moved to contribute. Members do not need to make an additional contribution for the High Holidays.

One of the Reconstructionist Havurah's founding principles was the rejection of "pay to pray". They have always offered High Holiday services freely to anyone who wanted to join in. That said, that do let people know that they incur extra costs for High Holiday services and ask them to consider making a donation. There is also a charge for non-members who join in for the communal "Break-the-Fast" after Yom Kippur ends, and for babysitting.

Temple Beth Emeth makes tickets available for the public to purchase for the holidays. If someone purchases tickets, and decides to become a member before the end of the year, their ticket contribution is applied to their membership dues. TBE always provides free tickets to university students from the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University. This year, because the service at Pease Auditorium is sponsored by EMU Hillel, EMU student or faculty members will be welcome to attend without charge. Tickets can be arranged through the temple office or EMU Hillel.

Temple Beth Emeth does not turn people away for financial reasons. If there is a concern about the cost of tickets, a confidential arrangement can always be made by talking to the executive director. This holds true with membership in the congregation as well. Anyone under the age of 30 is given a year of free membership. There is a guideline for dues, but arrangements can always be made to accommodate individual circumstances.

More than 2,000 students attend the University of Michigan Hillel's Reform, Conservative, Orthodox (which includes the Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan) and Humanistic High Holiday services. Tickets are required but students get them for free. Non-students are asked to make a $70 contribution for either Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur tickets ($120 suggested donation for all services).

A representative of one of the smaller congregations in town noted, "In fairness to the larger congregations in town that charge for tickets, we recognize that no one likes charging for prayer services, but that they have higher cost structures than we do, which may make that necessary." Given the wide range of options available in the Washtenaw County Jewish community, everyone who wants to should be able to attend services for the High Holidays. ■

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"Our Father, Our King — Avinu Malkeinu."

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The theme of God as Parent and Ruler dominates Rosh Hashana.

The Baal Shem Tov taught that the love God has for each one of us is analogous to and surpasses the love a father has for an only child born in his old age.

Rosh Hashana is the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve. Thus, it corresponds to the rebirth of humanity and we reestablish our relationship as children of God on this day.

The sounding of the shofar is connected to this central motif of Rosh Hashana, that of God as our Divine Parent.

To better understand this we look to another parable of the Baal Shem Tov:

An errant prince, an only son, traveled far from the palace. After many years had passed, the prince yearned to be reunited with his father, the king. However, by the time he returned to his native land, he had forgotten his mother tongue. From deep within his soul a cry emerged, a cry tha—no matter how estranged the child—a father could understand.

This fervent broken-hearted plea, of "Father, it is I, your only son, help me!" broke through the barriers separating father and son more eloquently than any words the prince might have uttered. At this moment, the king embraced the errant son.

For thousands of years the Jewish people have wandered in exile. At times, we even seem to have lost our means of communicating with our Father. We are very much like the proverbial prince, who when facing his father the king could only cry.

We are in pain not only because our self-created barriers separate us from God. But also because even when we wish to return we encounter all sorts of seemingly insurmountable obstacles born of the national and spiritual exile of our people.

The shofar represents the wordless cry of the only child within each of us. Chosen because of its simplicity, it symbolizes the incorruptible nature of the soul connected to the essence of God, Himself.

Transcending the conventional modes of communication, the shofar's shattering wail arouses in us an awareness of the most powerful bond uniting Father and child. No matter how far we may feel we've strayed throughout the year, no matter how muted or inadequate our ability to communicate with God, the shofar of Rosh Hashana enables us to reconnect in a more fundamental and powerful way than previously envisioned.

The "Great Shofar" sounded by God signaling the Messianic Age, will pierce all barriers and penetrate beneath the surface of our very beings. When God sounds the Great Shofar we will be able to express, completely and openly, the fundamental child/parent relationship we intrinsically have with God. The shofar of Redemption will usher in a time when the love between God and the Jewish people—concealed throughout our trial-ridden exile—will be fully revealed.

May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good and sweet year. But even before the New Year may we all find ourselves in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem with the revelation of our righteous Moshiach, and he will redeem us. ■

This Rosh Hashanah honor the earth

By Paul Steinberg

DALLAS (JTA) — Rosh Hashanah is a time of rebirth. However, this fall holiday brings a different sort of rebirth than springtime: After months of grueling heat and decay, the earth is refreshed with kernels of September green. In Israel, palm trees blossom with honey-sweet dates during the fall, providing the flavor of our celebration of the birthday of the universe.

Yet while the earth renews itself physically, we renew ourselves spiritually.

For this reason, Rosh Hashanah, also known as the Day of Remembrance, is the traditional time of year for *heshbon nefesh,* "taking stock of the soul." As I take stock of this past year, I find myself thinking more than ever before about Judaism's view of the earth. I recall a G-Eight summit to discuss governmental responses to global warming and gas emissions. I remember the United Nations scientific panel declaring that it is "very likely" that human activity is the cause of "unequivocal" warming and climate change. I also recollect the stir over the Oscar-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth.* I am reminded again and again that the earth and, in turn, humanity are in potential crisis.

Will this Rosh Hashanah bring more awareness of this crisis and *teshuvah*, meaningful change, than the passed one?

Consider this past March, before his death, when Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority, one of the largest evangelical political lobby groups, launched into a fiery tirade in which he derided environmentalists, opposing anyone who accepts the possibility of global warming.

Rather than scientific proofs, Falwell offered interpretations of biblical verses as his evidence, concluding, "I agree every Christian ought to be an environmentalist of reasonable sort. We should certainly pick up trash. We ought to beautify the earth as best we can."

But, he also said, "we shouldn't be hugging trees and worshipping the creation more than we worship the Creator, and that is what global warming is all about."

Although Falwell offered one religious perspective on the earth and the environment (one, likely, not shared by all evangelicals), it is antithetical to the Jewish perspective. After all, every Jewish holiday born out of the Torah is associated with honoring the earth and the cycle of the seasons. Furthermore, Maimonides taught that we come to love, appreciate and know God when we "contemplate God's wondrous and great deeds and creations."

True, the first chapter of Genesis says that mankind "shall rule" the creatures of the earth and expresses that mankind is the apex of God's creation, but in no way does it indicate that everything that precedes mankind is unimportant.

In fact, God markedly identified each as "good." Moreover, the medieval collection of midrashim, Pirke de Rebbe Eliezer, suggests that Genesis's distinction of man as "ruler" means spiritual leader. After man was created, the other creatures feared him, worshipping him as their creator. Yet, he humbled himself and used his power over them to make common cause with them, by leading them to "make God King, the one who created us all."

Rosh Hashanah is a time to remember the moral of the creation account, acknowledging our unique status as masters of the earth, while stressing Judaism's core theological assertion: God is the creator of the universe and it belongs to Him. We remind ourselves of this when we ask God for yearly blessings, echoed by the poet's supplication in our High Holiday prayer book:

In Your lovingkindness and faithfulness, O Lord, support Your world that is judged at the four seasons of each year… When You visit the earth on this Rosh Hashanah, invest it with righteousness, with fruits and dew, with rains and warmth….

The fundamental lesson of Rosh Hashanah and the fall holidays is twofold: that we human beings have incredible power for which we must be grateful and that we must set limits upon this power. Throughout the fall holidays, we confess our transgressions, our acts of selfishness, self-importance, and entitlement. Indeed, Falwell had it exactly backwards: By loving the earth and protecting its supreme value, we are in fact serving and showing reverence to God as the Creator. We are the chief custodians of the earth, "placed in the garden to till and tend it" [Genesis 2:15].

By merely picking up trash, we belittle the intention of God's creation. Again our rabbis expound:

When God created the first human beings, God led them around the Garden of Eden and said: "Look at my works! See how beautiful they are — how excellent! For your sake I created them all. See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world; for if you do, there will be no one else to repair it." [Midrash, Ecclesiastes Rabbah]

The scientific disciplines teach us that the earth and its ecosystems live in a delicate balance. Our Torah teaches us that we are supposed to preserve and keep that balance sustainable, respecting the trees, plants, and animals by how we grow, reap, yoke, and even slaughter them. If we learn anything during the holiday season, it is that what we do in the world matters. Our actions have an impact and it is the intent behind those actions, as well as our commitment to tikkun olam, repairing an imperfect world, that marks our sacred pact with God. ■

Rabbi Paul Steinberg is the author of Celebrating the Jewish Year (Jewish Publication Society, 2007)

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Sari Zack-Weintraub	VANCOUVER, BC
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Yehudis Wolvovsky	WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
Ellen Yucht	BROWARD COUNTY, FL
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September programs at Beth Israel

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Selichot Service features film

The annual Selichot Service, which includes prayers and readings to usher in the High Holiday season, will take place on Saturday, September 8, at 11:30 p.m. The service will be preceded at 8:30 p.m. with havdalah and a movie, Contact, about the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence and about searching for answers to significant questions, seeking connections in the world and the role faith has in one's life, and all critical issues as the High Holy Days approaches.

Rosh Hashanah family celebration for young children

On Wednesday, September 12 from 4–4:45 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary, Beth Israel will offer its annual "Rosh Hashanah Family Celebration" – a program of stories, songs, dramatic games, and the blowing of the shofar. The program is intended for families with young children, although all are welcome to attend.

Rosh Hashanah family service for children through third grade, and childcare/services for ages three and up.

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, a family service for children through third grade and their parents is set for 10:30 a.m. –noon at Vitosha Guest Haus, 1917 Washtenaw Avenue, to be followed by a simple kiddush of challah, honey and apples. Alternatively, childcare and Junior Congregation services are offered for all children ages three and up at Beth Israel Congreagation on the first and second day of Rosh Hashanah, and on Yom Kippur.

Yom Kippur services for 4th–7th graders, and 8th graders and high school teens

Services for 4th–7th graders at 2010 Washtenaw Avenue will be led by Deborah Ball, dean, of the School of Education and William H. Payne collegiate professor in education at the University of Michigan. There is also a separate teen service on Erev Yom Kippur, September 22, at 7 p.m. in the Beth Israel Chapel for students in 8th–12th grades.

Free tickets for High Holidays for newcomers, special dues for those 35 and under

Individuals and families who have moved to Washtenaw County since October 3, 2006 may receive free High Holiday tickets as Beth Israel's way of welcoming them into the local Jewish community. People who are age 35 or younger may become members at a special rate of $300 for their first year of membership. Tickets for the High Holidays are provided free of charge to all members of Beth Israel. Non-members may purchase tickets for the High Holiday Services. Those interested in further information are asked to call the synagogue office at 665-9897.

Pre-Yom Kippur study session

A pre-Yom Kippur study session entitled "Preparing for our Encounter with God: Home Traditions for Erev Yom Kippur" will take place on Wednesday evening, September 19, at 8 p.m., led by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin. This discussion entails an exploration of the traditional customs for the day before Yom Kippur. These rituals have developed over the centuries and involve prayer, *tzedaka*, a special blessing for the children, and traditions relating to the meal before the fast. They are intended to help Jews prepare in moving and meaningful ways for the day to come. With some contemporary twists, these rituals continue to be a spiritually moving way to prepare for the day ahead.

Baby Shabbat

On Saturday, October 6, at a service that begins at 9:30 a.m., Baby Shabbat will be celebrated at Beth Israel. New babies born over the past year are officially welcomed by the congregation around 11:30 a.m. Babies are presented with T-shirts marking the date of their upcoming bar/bat mitzvah year, followed by a kiddush.

Introduction to Judaism series

Explore the philosophy and practice of Jewish holidays and life-cycle events on Tuesday evenings, beginning September 11 from 8–9:30 p.m. and ending December 18. Topics will include gaining a better understanding of why we keep kosher, observe Shabbat, or wear a *tallit* (prayer shawl); how the tradition of bar and bat mitzvah got started and what Jewish perspectives on the afterlife may be. The group will study classical Jewish texts as well as contemporary perspectives and provide an opportunity for discussion and journaling. This course is open to anyone who is interested in conver-

Continued on next page

Jake Kander is new program director at BIC

Jake Kander

Jacob Kander has been hired as the new program director at Beth Israel Congregation. Kander is an alumnus of the University of Michigan. After graduating with a double major in psychology and film and video studies, he worked for the University of Michigan Hillel as the program associate. Kander then worked as the program director for Congregation Agudas Achim in Columbus, Ohio. While an undergraduate at U-M, Jake worked at the religious schools for both Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth, and was the Shabbat leader for the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County Early Childhood Center.

Activities at Temple Beth Emeth

Devon Fetzig, special to the WJN

Fall Adult Learning at TBE

Hebrew in a Day—Sunday, September 30, 9–4 p.m.

Instructor: Pauli Weizman

Sunday, September 10, 9–4 p.m., at Beth Israel Congregation.

The perfect opportunity to brush up and feel comfortable with the Hebrew alphabet. This course is designed to teach the basics of Hebrew language reading. Become a confident Hebrew reader in one crash course. Food and materials are included. $60 TBE & BIC members/ $80 non-members. Register by calling 665-4744 by September 10. Adult Hebrew begins in October

Biblical & Conversational Hebrew, Beginning, Intermediate & Advanced levels.

Beginning & Intermediate Biblical Hebrew Classes are on Wednesday evenings (begins October 10).

Advanced Biblical Classes may meet on Thursday, check with Devon. Conversational Hebrew classes will be offered on Thursday evenings (begins October 11). Winter and spring semesters are a continuation of the fall semester. For a form or for more information, visit www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/adult_education. Register by calling 665-4744.

Saturday morning Torah Study with Rabbi Levy begins on September 1, weekly at 8:50 a.m.

An exploration of the weekly Torah portion held in the TBE chapel. Saturdays at 8:50 a.m., followed by a lay-led chapel service at 9:30 a.m. (optional). Casual dress is fine.

Movie Tuesdays begin on Tuesday, September 18, 1-3 p.m.

For people with flexible schedules. Monthly Film and Discussion series held on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m.. Coffee and noshes provided. Childcare is available with advanced notice. Movie Tuesdays usually occur on the third Tuesday of the month. The September film is *Watermarks*.

Watermarks is a 2004 documentary directed by Yaron Zilberman that features women from the Jewish Viennese Hakoah swim team during the rise of fascism in 1930s Austria. The film describes the women's success as athletes leading up to the Anschluss of 1938 when the swimmers fled Austria to disparate locations in Palestine, England, and the United States. The documentary ends with some of the women from the swim team returning to Vienna 65 years later for a reunion at their old swimming pool.

Holiday Adult Study Sessions (no tickets required):

Yom Kippur Meditation—Saturday, September 22, 9 a.m. at Pease Auditorium (2nd floor)

Yom Kippur Adult Study Session—Saturday, September 22, 1:30 p.m. in the TBE Chapel

Simchat Torah Adult Study Session—Wednesday, October 3, 8:30 p.m.

Continuing Jewish Meditation, Wednesdays 7:30–8:45 p.m.

Meditation and group discussion will take place in the TBE Chapel most Wednesdays beginning September 5. The class will study the Baal Shem Tov and his writings. The book is available from Amazon. It is entitled Tzava'at Harivash, The Testament of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, translated by Jacob Immanuel Schochet. Contact Judy Freedman for more information at 769-1709 or freedmanjudy@comcast.net. Class dates are:

September 5, 19 & 26; October 3 at 8 p.m. (Simchat Torah)

October 10, 17 & 24

November 7, 14 & 28

December 5, 12 & 19

Healing and the Jewish Imagination with Cantor Annie Rose

Mondays, October 8, 15, & 22, 7:30 p.m.

This three-session class will examine Jewish perspectives on healing, exploring personal experiences and developing a collection of prayers and readings to use in our daily lives. The book will be available for purchase at TBE: *Healing and the Jewish Imagination: Spiritual And Practical Perspectives On Judaism And Health* (Hardcover), edited by Rabbi William Cutter. Contact Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 to sign up and purchase a book.

Lunch & Learn: Pirke Avot with Rabbi Robert Levy

Fridays from noon–1 p.m., beginning on October 12

In the middle of the Mishnah's discussion of civil law is a small collection of rabbinic philosophy. *Pirke Avot* (*Sayings of the Fathers)* is a compilation of pithy rabbinic wisdom and can serve as a window into the rabbinic mind. Childcare may be available with advanced notice.

Friday afternoon Meditation and Learning with Rabbi Levy,

1-2 p.m. in the chapel following the Rabbi's Pirke Avot course.

(The two learning opportunities are separate. Students are invited to take one or both.) Begins on Friday, October 12. Focuses on the weekly parasha (Torah portion) with a teaching from Rabbi Levy followed by meditation. All levels are welcome. Childcare may be available with advanced notice.

Basic Judaism Course

Instructors: Devon Fitzig & Rabbi Robert Levy

Sundays, Oct. 14, 21 and 28; Nov. 4, 11 & 18; Dec. 9; Jan. 6, 13, 20 & 27; Feb. 10.

Cost: $25 for non-members, free for members. This course will cover Jewish theology; holidays, customs and rituals; life cycle events; pre-modern history; history of the state of Israel and the Holocaust. Childcare may be available with advanced notice.

Women's Rosh Chodesh

Begins Sunday, October 14, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the new moon/month in a meaningful gathering of women. Co-sponsored by Caring Community and the TBE Sisterhood, each short service is followed by a discussion, study session, or special presentation. A complete service schedule is found at www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/rosh_chodesh. If you'd like to lead a service or discussion, contact Abbie Egherman at 975-0828 or aje_2001@yahoo.com. To subscribe to the Rosh Chodesh email list, contact Devon at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org. Childcare may be available with advanced notice.

Families with Young Children

For families with kids aged birth to five years old. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome as always. Non members are welcome at all events. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig, dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744 or Jill Pritts, jillpritts@yahoo.com.

Birthday of the World Tot Program Rosh Hashanah, Thursday, September 13, 2:30 p.m. in the TBE sanctuary.

Join us for this wonderful preschool Birthday of the World celebration with Cantor Annie Rose. This is open to the community and no tickets are needed.

Tot Shabbat will be every week starting Friday, October 5

Join in every week for Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and Shira (Song Fest) at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the $4 dinner (macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce and salad) can be purchased in advance by contacting the temple office, 665-4744. Advance purchase is encouraged.

Jewish Hikers of Michigan

Fall Hikes: Sundays, September 23 and October 14, 11 a.m.

Join a new natural, social, spiritual and ecological group now forming in Southwest Michigan. Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM) is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth's Caring Community and is open to anyone. All adult couples, singles and children are welcome. The hikes will take place on a monthly basis – on exciting and different trails in the local area. All skill levels are welcome. Bring your backpack, munchies and drinks. Each hike will last approximately 1–1/2 to 2 hours. For further information, contact Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645, or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com. Web site: http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan

Twenties & Thirties (TNT) Event

First Friday Shabbat Dinner

Join us at the Federation Young Adult Division (YAD)'s Shabbat in the Park on Friday, September 7 at 6 p.m. RSVP by contacting Elisha Caplan at ellisha@jewishannarbor.org.

Twenties and Thirties (TNT) of Temple Beth Emeth provides a welcoming, inclusive Jewish community through monthly social and cultural activities. Non-TBE members are welcome. Visit the website at http://www.templebethemeth.org/tnt for upcoming events, email tnt@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

Sukkot Celebration

Wednesday, September 26, 6 p.m. pizza and salad dinner in the social hall. Cost TBD.

Sukkah decorating followed by blessings in sukkah. 7:30 p.m. Meditation led by Judy Freedman.

On Thursday, September 27, 11 a.m. Sukkot services with Yiskor will be followed by a light lunch. RSVP by calling 665-4744 by September 21.

Simchat Torah Celebration

Participants are welcome to bring their own dinner to the temple at 6 p.m.. A rousing service with Israeli dancing will be at 7 p.m. followed by Meditation at 8 p.m. and an Adult Study Session with Rabbi Levy at 8:30 p.m.

Beth Israel
Continued from previous page

sion to Judaism, as well as to anyone wishing to deepen his or her own understanding of the Jewish tradition. This class will be led by Rabbi Sara O'Donnell Adler and will meet for 15 sessions. There is a $100 fee for non-members.

Shabbat child care and Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat for 3–5 year olds and their parents will meet on Saturday mornings September 8, and September 29 from 11 a.m.–noon. Tot Shabbat on September 8 is led by Peretz Hirshbein, assistant director of the Jewish Community Cener of Washtenaw County's Early Childhood Center, and on September 29 by Jen Levine. Enjoy stories, puppets, songs, and a kiddush just for 3–5 year olds and their parents. In general, Tot Shabbat is scheduled for every second and fourth Shabbat of the month. There is no charge. Childcare for pre-schoolers aged 2–5 years old is offered every Saturday from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Sukkot activities

Morning Sukkot services will be held on September 27 and 28 from at 9:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. As part of the congregation's celebration of Sukkot, there will be a luncheon in the Sukkah on the first day of Sukkot, and a kiddush on the second day. Students of all ages are encouraged to attend and join in the lulav and etrog procession, which occurs towards the end of the service. Lulav and etrog sets with instructions may be purchased through the congregation.

Tot Shabbat Sukkot dinner

Tots and their parents and family are invited to a time just for them in the Sukkah on September 28 at 5:30 p.m., including a Friday night dinner. This is one of a series of events outside of Tot Shabbat which allow families with preschoolers to participate in Jewish holiday observances. All these events are open to the general community. Reservations are required and there is a charge for the meal.

Simchat Torah and the International Shul of Pancakes

For the fourth year in a row, on October 5, after the Simchat Torah Shacharit and Hallel services which start at 8:30 a.m., there will be a free pancake breakfast in the social hall from 9–10 a.m.for congregants and visitors, followed by the Hakafot, the Torah processionals and the rest of the service. Tots and their parents are invited to the pancake breakfast with the rest of the congregation, followed by a Tot Simchat Torah program just for them.

On the previous evening, Saturday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m. the congregation will mark the beginning of the Simchat Torah holiday with family-friendly Torah processionals and snacks.

All of Beth Israel's events, with the exception of High Holiday services due to limited space and security concerns, are open to the general community, often at no cost. If you would like more information, call 665-9897.

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Youth leadership training thrives at Habonim Dror Camp Tavor

Emily Eisbruch, staff writer

In recent years Habonim-Dror Camp Tavor has earned a reputation as an outstanding Jewish camp attracting many Ann Arbor kids. This summer 35 Ann Arbor families sent 57 young people to Camp Tavor. Among those were seven Ann Arbor high school students who participated in an exciting transitional summer at Camp Tavor. These young people (Judy and Sophia Blumenthal, Adam Funk, Maya Lamm, Matan Naamani, Celeste Tannenbaum and Yoni Siden) had outgrown the status of "camper," and they weren't yet full-fledged counselors. They were entering the 12th grade and this was their Madatz summer at Camp Tavor.

Maya Lamm, Judy Blumenthal, Yoni Siden, and Sophia Blumenthal

Madatz is Camp Tavor's intensive counselor in training and leadership development program. (The word Madatz is an acronym for Madrichim Tzi'irim or "young counselors.") Camp Tavor—located two hours west of Ann Arbor near Three Rivers, Michigan—is well-known for empowering young people through its emphasis on leadership. According to Camp Tavor's Executive Director Shelley Goldwater, "We focus on letting kids have fun and be themselves, while also cultivating leadership skills and building a strong sense of community and connectedness."

This summer, the Madatz program attracted 25 high school seniors-to-be from around the Midwest, including seven from Ann Arbor. While the head counselors (Madrichim) at Camp Tavor are all college-aged or older, the Madatz program provides an excellent training and learning environment for high school students. Many will be future Tavor counselors or a leaders in the local youth group. The Madatz summer features three weeks of focused leadership training followed by four weeks of hands-on involvement with younger campers, all supervised by experienced, veteran counselors.

University of Michigan senior Yelena Adelman was one of the counselors supervising Camp Tavor's 2007 Madatz program. Adelman grew up in Saline and went through the Madatz program at Camp Tavor in 2003. She comments, "The Madatz 2007 participants were an incredible group. My role was to help them develop new leadership skills. I found it really gratifying watching them each develop and seeing the positive impact they had with the younger campers."

Madatz participant Celeste Tannenbaum, now a Huron High senior, says, "During the first three weeks of the summer, all of the Madatzim lived together and had activities on how to interact with the campers and what kind of example to set. The role-playing we did really helped us gain confidence. We also put the campers to bed one night each week. Then, during the last four weeks of the summer, we were each assigned to a tent or cabin. We lived with the campers and helped with the daily routine and created programs and activities for them. It was a fantastic experience. We all learned a huge amount and had an amazing time."

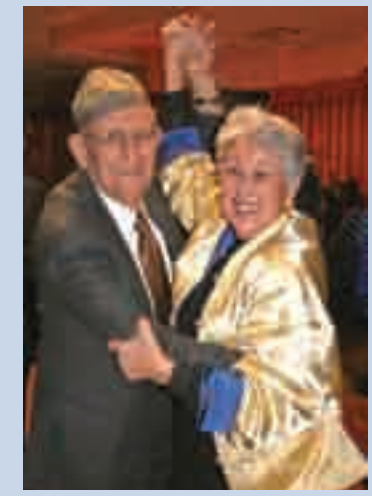
Matan Naamani, a senior at Pioneer High, mentions that one of the highlights of his Madatz experience was being co-chair of a Madatz project. Naamani explains, "Each year, the Madatzim do a project to enhance the camp and to leave a mark on the camp for future campers to remember and enjoy. This summer, we decided to build a campsite for the younger kids. It included a working fire pit and a lakefront to park canoes. We also built a gazebo structure in the camp's garden."

Now that Madatz 2007 is behind them, Naamani and Tannenbaum are looking forward to being two of this year's leaders of Ken Pardes, the local Ann Arbor chapter of Habonim. Ken Pardes offers monthly programs to the Ann Arbor area youth, including Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, and social action events and outings. The group—open to all school-age kids—is known for being welcoming, fun, and promoting informal, creative education. Naamani and Tannenbaum agree the Madatz summer experience at Camp Tavor helped them understand clearly how to develop and implement successful programs for younger kids. ■

For more information on the activities offered by the Ken Pardes youth group this year, contact Sophia Blumenthal at 769-1153 or Matan Naamani at 904-6578. To learn more about Habonim Camp Tavor, call Ron Sussman at 971-1147 or visit the website at www.camptavor.org.

Celeste Tannenbaum and Matan Naamani participated in the Madatz Program.

We welcome you!



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Three girls at a Purim Celebration

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- Call Beth Israel office for more information.

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Hebrew Day School hires six new staff members

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

One of the many wonderful qualities about Ann Arbor is the wealth of professional talent that it both attracts and retains. Hebrew Day School is fortunate to be benefiting from Ann Arbor's veteran professionals, as well as new professionals who have just moved to town. This year, the school has hired six new professionals. Hebrew Day School's returning teachers are looking forward to working collaboratively with these excellent additions to the team.

Barbara Bergman has been hired as a special education teacher. Bergman has a long history with HDS; her children attended the school in its early years, and she served as president of the board. Bergman has over 30 years of experience working as a language arts consultant in Ann Arbor's public and private schools, with specific assignments at Thurston, Eberwhite, Carpenter, and Freeman. She was a classroom teacher at Northside and Logan schools, and a teacher consultant assigned to Burns Park, Mitchell, St. Francis, Dicken, and most recently Ann Arbor Open, where she managed the special education program for the last nine years. Bergman has worked extensively with teachers, parents, and directly with students in the classroom and in one-on-one sessions. "I am thrilled about my newest involvement with the staff, students and families of HDS," said Bergman. "As a former parent and past president, I am aware of the great value HDS plays in the Jewish community, and I am excited to be a part of it."

Leah Kessler Lempert has been hired as a curriculum specialist and classroom assistant for the school's lower grades. Lempert grew up in Ann Arbor and is excited to be back, now with her new husband. She is moving to Ann Arbor from San Francisco, where she taught life sciences and general studies at Town School for Boys. Previously, Lempert worked at the Exploratorium in San Francisco where she led biology demonstrations and maintained the exhibits. She has also tutored math, Spanish, French, and English, and taught high school English grammar in Bucharest, Romania. She was a teaching assistant in French and Biology while she was a student at Carleton College (BA, Biology, magna cum laude, 1997). She has a California State multi-subject teaching credential from the Bay Area Teacher Training Institute. Lempert has coached synchronized swimming, and she plays piano, clarinet and cello. She remembers, as a youth, going to Hebrew school in the JCC building.

New HDS teachers Rear: Uzi Sasson, Mark Schuppener. Front: Dahlia Leibovich, Barbara Bergman, Debra Gombert. Not pictured: Leah Lempert.

Dahlia Leibovich has been hired as the school's database manager and support staff for marketing, recruitment, and development. Leibovich has an M.A. from Harvard's Graduate School of Education, with a specialization in the arts. Her varied professional experiences include being a studio educator for an early childhood center, a designer and researcher for an obesity prevention program sponsored by the Heinz Foundation, a library archivist, and a development assistant for the Society for Contemporary Art in Pittsburgh. Leibovich attended Jewish day school through 12th grade. She is in Ann Arbor while her husband studies at the University of Michigan Medical School. "I am looking forward to meeting all the teachers and students at HDS and becoming part of your community. It seems like a very warm and welcoming environment," said Leibovich.

Uzi Sasson will be Hebrew Day School's fifth grade Hebrew and Judaic Studies teacher. Sasson is completing his Ph.D. in administration and leadership studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His article "Religious Education and Community Involvement among Jewish Adolescents" has been accepted for publication in the Fall 2007/Spril 2008 issue of Religious Education. While working on his Ph.D., Sasson taught Hebrew and Israel advocacy at the Agency for Jewish Learning in Pittsburgh, and he volunteered for Young Judaea. A native Israeli, he has an M.A. from Tel Aviv University where he majored in political science and philosophy. He also has a graduate certificate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from the Swinburne University of Technology in Australia. Sasson was an officer in the Israeli Defense Forces. He and his family moved to Ann Arbor this summer. His wife will teach Hebrew at the U-M, and his oldest child will join the kindergarten class at Hebrew Day School. "During my visits to Ann Arbor," shared Sasson, "I could feel the power of a large, vivid, and welcoming community, in which I plan to establish my new home. It is both a privilege and an honor to become a part of the HDS family, and it is also a mission for me to preserve the Jewish heritage by teaching Hebrew, Judaic, and Torah."

Hebrew Day School has also hired two musicians to help teach the school's expanded instrumental program funded primarily by the Benard L. Maas Foundation. Debra Gombert has been hired to teach the fourth grade recorder and music theory class. She will also lead the school's Klez Kids Band. Gombert works as a musician in many Ann Arbor organizations. She is a song leader for the JCC's Early Childhood Center, teaches recorder, Kindermusik, and Music Play classes for the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, and is a music therapist with Building Bridges Therapy Center in Plymouth where she works with autistic children and children with learning disabilities. Gombert has a B.A. in Music Therapy from Eastern Michigan University, and she studied flute performance at the U-M School of Music. Her background includes other disciplines as well; she has an M.A. in computer science from the University of Wisconsin and a B.A. in mathematics from Vassar College.

Joining Gombert will be Mark Schuppener, who will teach and direct Hebrew Day School's fifth grade instrumental string program, also funded through the Benard L. Maas Foundation. Schuppener received both his M.A. and Ph.D. in violin performance (2007) from the U-M. He is on the faculty of the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, directs the string youth program at St. Francis of Assisi, plays in three area orchestras, and is a violin coach for the Michigan Youth Symphony and the U-M Residential College. ■

For more information about Hebrew Day School, call 971-4633 or browse the website at www.hdsaa.org.

Darbuka Day at Tamarack Camps

HDS staff, special to the WJN

The weather could not have cooperated better with a group of 50 children, adults, and grandparents who spent Darbuka Day at Tamarack Camps on July 22. What is Darbuka Day, you might ask? It was a day to learn how to play the darbuka, a hand drum of ancient origin used in a wide variety of traditional near Eastern music. Open to the community, the day was sponsored by the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor under a grant from the Kellogg Foundation. "The goal was to experience a day of fellowship through music," says Dina Shtull, head of Hebrew Day School. "Kellogg recognizes that the lives of children, families, and communities can be improved through culture and creative programming. We are grateful to Kellogg for allowing us to offer this kind of programming to our community."

Sitting in the shade of a willow tree, participants adjusted the darbuka under their right or left dominant arm, and repeated the rhythmic patterns played by teacher, Bishara Naddaf. Before they knew it, they were playing in concert, and raising the darbukas in joy at the completion of a musical set. A master of the instrument, teacher Naddaf is an Arab-Israeli from Nazareth who is one of the founding members of Shesh-Besh, a group of eight musicians: four Jewish musicians from the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and four of Israel's best Arab-Israeli musicians. The group performs worldwide delivering a musical message of hope for peace. Bishara also teaches and performs for Arab and Jewish children in Israel, teaching the value of coexistence through his music.

"At first, I was a little resistant to learning how to play a drum," said Anat Hodish, who along with her husband, Israel, and two children Gal and Yonatan, participated in Darbuka Day. "But Bishara was so warm and welcoming, and in the end, it was a lot fun, a great, enjoyable experience." Children and adults each had a separate session with Bishara, who then brought the groups together to practice for their performance. Observers couldn't help but get up and dance.

Raising Darbukas after a musical set

Darbuka Day wasn't only about drumming. Encouraged by Tamarack staff, many reached the top of the camp's climbing wall, swam in the lake, took out a kayak, or jumped off the "iceberg" tower floating in the lake. The families had a picnic lunch together, and spent time in the camp's Pioneer Village making doughnuts and candles, spinning rope, taking in a hay ride, and petting the camp's horse.

"The HDS-sponsored Darbuka Day was a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy time together on a gorgeous summer day," said Pamela Ramseyer. "How better to bring the community together than to organize a day full of activities that parents can share with their children? Everyone I talked with hoped we could have another event like this next year." ■

For more information about Hebrew Day School and its programs, contact 971-4633 or browse www.hdsaa.org.

News from the Early Childhood Center

Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

New Jewish Mamas Groups forming at

Are you wondering how to raise self-reliant, compassionate, and ethical Jewish children? Explore these issues and gain insight and support from other moms as we read and discuss The Blessing of a Skinned Knee by Wendy Mogul. New classes are forming to discuss the book, which addresses such topics as the challenges faced by parents as they try to uphold their own values that are often at odds with the current culture, using a Jewish lens to understand ways to define appropriate expectations, helping your children realize their potential without creating stress, learning the connection between privileges and responsibilities and more.

This group is co-sponsored by the JCC Early Childhood Center and Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division. Child care will be available, and coffee and snacks will be served at each session. For more information call Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990.

Ethical Start Traditions Pajama Party

All JCC Early Childhood Center three and four year old children and their parents are invited to attend an evening of traditions and learning on Thursday September 6 from 6–7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center. The cost is $10.00 per family, which includes the program, a pizza dinner and child care for younger siblings.

Families are asked to bring in an object that represents a value or tradition they want to pass along to their children along with a card explaining their item. Children are encouraged to wear pajamas to this event.

The "An Ethical Start" Program will be introduced to all of the parents with the help of the children and teachers. "An Ethical Start" is a curriculum designed by a team at the Jewish Community Center Association that teaches ethics to young children. This program draws from the teachings in Pirkei Avot, a Jewish text whose lessons have been the foundation of Jewish character, morality

ECC Kids at last years Sukkah

New Kindermusik class

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will host Kindermusik for the Young Child, taught by Linda Anderson on Mondays, September 10 through December 17 at 4:10 p.m. The cost for the class is $300, which includes all materials.

This Kindermusik class will provide a pressure-free, developmentally appropriate transition to musical before taking on more formal instruction. This class provides an opportunity to explore voice, development, rhythm, notation, musical symbols, and authentic pre-keyboard, string and woodwind instruments.

Kindermusik for the Young Child helps every child develop a confident, joyful voice for singing and speaking as well as essential building blocks for a future of learning. Students explore many facets of the musical experience: speaking, singing, moving, dancing, listening, creating and playing instruments, as well as learning about reading and writing music. As the capstone to the Kindermusik journey, the class broadens and deepens the child's introduction to the fulfillment and excitement of musicianship.

For more information or to sign up for the class, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

Youth artists featured on JFS tribute cards

Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County rolled out its new Tribute cards last month featuring designs from four young artists: Bridget Roberts, age 4 from Gretchen's House; Mira Kaufman, age 7, Hebrew Day School; Robert Axelrod, age 15 from Huron High School; and Melissa (Buffy) Meiller, age 17, from Community High School.

All 17 submissions from 12 artists, ages 4 to 17 years old, were displayed at the JFS Bat Mitzvah Cruise celebration on April 22, and currently adorn the halls at the new JFS office. Artist Jon Lockard worked with the Tribute Card committee to select four winning designs representing all age groups. Entries offered a beautiful interpretation of the Jewish themes and lifecycle events.

JFS Tribute Cards can be sent in honor or in memory of a loved one or on a special occasion. The cards are available for single tributes or in boxed sets and can be ordered via the JFS website at www.jfsannarbor.org, phone 769-0209, or mail.

All donations collected from these Tribute cards will help fund JFS services for individuals and families in need throughout Washtenaw County.

JCC youth activities

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

JCC Fall Youth Enrichment Classes

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County is offering a series of youth enrichment classes beginning the week of October 8. Abrakadoodle Art is an innovative multi-media art education program that uses a style of art instruction called Process Art. The instructor focuses on what children are learning through the "process" of creating their art. This style of instruction fosters creativity through experimentation in new art techniques.

Fast and Fun Floor Hockey is a fast-paced game that teaches children to work as a team, strategize and exhibit good sportsmanship. It's also tons of fun and improves a child's hand-eye coordination.

Picture Perfect Photography will teach how to focus, balance contrast, take a panoramic shot and even learn how the parts of a camera work. Children will be able to frame their photos and have their own show. Assistant Camp Director, Nate Bankirer, will be the instructor for this class.

Terrific Tennis teaches children how to serve a tennis ball like a pro. All of the basics of tennis will be covered in this class. Participants will learn to serve, volley, position themself on the court and score against their opponent.

All classes run for six weeks and are open to children in kindergarten through fifth grades. For a class schedule, fees and more details refer to the JCC Chai Lights publication or call 971-0990.

New year of Kids' Konnection begins

Kids' Konnection, a comprehensive child-care program at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County for children from kindergarten to fifth grade, features after-school care, School's Out-JCC's In activities, a drop-in service and transportation from some area elementary schools.

The JCC program provides a safe and nurturing environment for children. Staff planned and supervised activities give children the opportunity to imagine, create and explore. Arts and crafts, cooking, science projects, sports, outdoor play, Judaic programming, drama, monthly themes and nutritious snacks are all part of the fun. New and exciting programs will also be offered. Homework assistance is provided daily at 5:15 p.m. A schedule of snacks and activiites are regularly posted, and bi-weekly emails keep parents up-to-date. Children enrolled in the JCC Kindergarten Enrichment Program are invited to attend Kids' Konnection at 4 p.m. at a prorated tuition.

For more information and a registration form, contact Craig Pollack at craigpollack@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

It's party time at the JCC

The JCC is offering birthday party packages for children between the ages of two and ten years old. JCC parties include a coordinator, staff assistant, party room, party activities and materials, decorations, paper goods, tablecloths, pizza and drinks. All you need to bring is the birthday cake and the birthday child.

There are several different party themes to choose from and parties can be scheduled on Sundays and weekday evenings. To schedule a preschool party, contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or email ndeyoung@umich.edu. For school age kids' parties contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org.

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JCC Raanana hosts Friendship Carnival

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Camp Raanana had another fabulous summer of fun in the sun at Independence Lake. Sports, arts and crafts, swim lessons, nature classes, singing and drama, field trip, theme days, Judaic programs and singing and drama kept a record number of campers excited and busy throughout the summer. A special highlight of the summer was a Friendship Carnival put together by Raanana campers and staff for the mentally and physically challenged campers at High Point School. Thanks to a "Day of Caring-Day of Sharing" grant awarded to Camp Raanana by the Coca-Cola Company, July 31 became a day of new friendships, laughter, learning and sharing that the campers will remember for years to come.

Camp Raanana worked in collaboration with High Point to design a carnival that would foster a positive interaction between the special needs campers at High Point and the Raanana campers. During the week leading up to the carnival, High Point campers visited Raanana campers at Independence Lake and played games and made art projects with them. Raanana campers were introduced to the types of special needs campers they would meet at the event through open dialogues with High Point educators and Raanana staff. The Raanana campers were instrumental in organizing and implementing of the carnival activities. Camp Raanana was fortunate to forge an additional partnership with Chris Nordman Associates; a professional carnival company with a history of working with the special needs community. Aside from carnival games, Camp Raanana offered the campers at High Point a giant slide, an inflatable obstacle course, a moonwalk, a dunk tank and snow cones and cotton candy. Prizes were also distributed to all of the participants. Including the Camp Raanana participants, the age range varied from 5 to 13 years old, with a total population between the two camps of 20 campers and 40 staff members.

The Friendship Carnival was a huge success. Friendships and a sense of community were fostered between the two camps. The Raanana campers came away from the experience with a new sense of understanding and acceptance of the many differences and similarities that make the Ann Arbor community so special. In fact, during the event, several Raanana campers asked if the kids from other camps that were on the High Point property that day could come over and join the fun. Honey Creek and Gretchen's House joined the festivities. For the High Point campers, the carnival represented an opportunity to interact with other children from the community in a non-threatening environment. Moreover, this provided a chance to spend an afternoon just having fun. ■

Twenty-four Ann Arbor Jewish educators attend CAJE conference

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

The most important gathering of Jewish Educators in America took place this summer in St. Louis, Missouri, as CAJE—the Coalition

Peter Yarrow with Aron Kaufman

on for the Advancement of Jewish Education—held its annual conference at Washington University, August 2-9.

Over 1,500 participants were on hand at this yearly gathering, including world-class teachers, authors and personalities. At the event, educators from across America—as well as 75 participants from overseas, including a group of 25 Israelis—had the chance to attend master classes and network in an informal setting.

Among these throngs of people were 24 Ann Arborites. Local teachers in attendance were Aimee Roth-Rozum and Ramona Brand of the Jewish Cultural Society school; Noreen DeYoung and Peretz Hirshbein of the JCC Early Childhood Center; Cindy Saper, Wendy Zohar, and Stacey Tessler of the Beth Israel Religious School; Terri Ginsberg, Viki Shayna, Aaron Goldsmith, Aaron Jackson, Marjorie Rhodes, Devon Fitzig, Michelle Freund, Rivka Black Elk of the Temple Beth Emeth Religious School; Karen Shill of the BIC and TBE religious schools; and Eileen Nadler and Aron Kaufman of the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. Also in attendance were Matt Kaplan and Lisa Bernstein. Of particular honor and delight was the participation of three of Ann Arbor's Jewish youth in programs for future Jewish leaders: Alan Piracha participated in the Schusterman College program, Adam Shayna attended the High School Leadership Kallah, and Noam Saper participated in Bogrim, a program for middle-schoolers.

Several Ann Arborites presented sessions at the conference that were particularly well received. JCC ECC Assistant Director Peretz Hirshbein led a session on working with boys in Jewish Early Childhood settings. Hirshbein also co-presented a session with JCC ECC Director Noreen DeYoung outlining an approach to celebrating Jewish holidays with young children that explores the practices of Jews around the world.

Ann Arbor Jewish Educators at CAJE

One of the most special moments at the conference was an appearance by Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul, and Mary fame), who was presenting an anti-bullying curriculum. Hebrew Day School teachers Aron Kaufman and Eileen Nadler joined him on stage to sing "Puff, the Magic Dragon."

This year's convention's theme was "Engaging 21st Century Jewish Learners." CAJE is the largest and most significant group representing Jewish educators and this summer marks their 32nd year. Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, through a grant to the Jewish Educators Council, made possible the participation of most of the Ann Arborites in attendance. ■

Familiar refrain at CAJE meeting:

Teachers need more money, respect

By Sue Fishkoff

ST. LOUIS (JTA) — Bright, engaging and full of energy, Bethany Spielberg is the kind of classroom teacher any Jewish school would be lucky to have.

Spielberg, 18, an education major at California State University, Fullerton, already teaches second grade at her Reform temple's religious school.

After a week here at CAJE, the annual conference of North American Jewish educators sponsored by the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, she remains firmly committed to a career in teaching -- but not in Jewish schools.

"Honestly? It's because of the money," she admits.

Spielberg, who attended the conference as one of 26 students chosen for the Schusterman College program, hopes to continue teaching in Jewish supplementary schools after she graduates, but she won't do it full-time. And that's not for lack of desire.

"Being Jewish is a big part of my life, and I'd like to give something back," she said. "I'd love to do it seven days a week, but I'd also love teaching secular school, and if the money is so different …" Her voice trails off.

"It's hard enough living on a secular teacher's salary."

Spielberg's dilemma highlights the reality of Jewish education at the dawn of the 21st century.

Even as the Jewish community focuses on the goal of Jewish continuity and leaders trumpet the need for high-quality Jewish education, those who are entrusted with the task of delivering that education—the classroom teachers—remain underpaid, overworked and underappreciated.

"We need to invest many more dollars in our Hebrew-school leadership," said Scott Shay, author of "Getting Our Groove Back: How to Energize American Jewry," in his Aug. 5 opening-night speech. "That means greater respect and money for our teachers."

According to CAJE data, and preliminary findings from a 2006 study of congregational and day schools in North America, 250,000 children are enrolled in Jewish congregational schools and 175,000 in Jewish day schools. But the 50,000 teachers in those schools have few, if any, benefits -- 46 percent of day-school teachers have no health insurance, and their salaries average less than $45,000 a year. The situation is even worse for Jewish preschool teachers, whose annual salary averages $20,000.

Not surprisingly, the annual turnover rate for day-school teachers is 25 percent.

"We've never had enough high-quality Jewish educators," said CAJE Executive Director Jeff Lasday. "We have magnificent classrooms, great textbooks, terrific digital material but still not enough excellent teachers."

At a recent meeting of Jewish communal leaders in Miami, Lasday said, "One lay leader told me, I had no idea we pay our baby sitters more than our teachers."

Young people are not entering the field of Jewish education. According to CAJE statistics, more than half the teachers in Jewish congregational and day schools are older than 48.

Despite the discouraging picture, dozens of young teachers and graduate students joined the Schusterman fellows at the CAJE conference.

They came from varied backgrounds. Some had pleasant memories of religious school; many others did not. Some attended day school.

Some already are teaching in classrooms, and more than a few are following in the footsteps of parents who are teachers, many at Jewish schools.

What they share is idealism, enthusiasm and a commitment to helping secure the Jewish future.

"I love it," said Rachel Gold, 21, a senior at Brandeis University.

Gold, a biology and environmental sciences major, said she plans a career in that field, but also wants to continue teaching in Jewish supplementary schools. She's been doing that for the past four years.

"I love second and third grade, seeing them go from knowing a few letters to understanding the Hebrew prayers," she said.

Spielberg said, "It's exciting to feel so important, so needed. I want to make the kids love being Jewish more than I want to teach them Torah, especially the younger kids."

What the young and aspiring teachers share as well is a belief in the importance of the profession and the desire to see it more highly valued by the Jewish community.

"At one time the teachers were volunteers," said Lisa Alpern, education director at IKAR, a transdenominational community in Los Angeles. "They didn't have a master's in education, it wasn't a profession."

Things are different now, Alpern said.

"We are not just implementing the rabbi's vision, we're sharing our own," she said. "We have the capacity to be real leaders."

While most Jewish teachers are women, a good number of the younger teachers and students at the CAJE conference were men. They see themselves as important role models for boys and girls, showing children that men as well as women value education.

Davey Rosen, 28, is a second-year student in the Davidson School at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary. He also works with young children at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Manhattan.

Rosen plans to make a career of teaching Jewish children, and he resents those who assume that as a man he will be going on to rabbinical school.

"We're dealing with the future of our people, and we're dealing with the lives of these kids right now," he said. "You can't rely on just anyone to do that."

CAJE has launched Project Kavod, or respect, a campaign to improve Jewish educators' working conditions and elevate their status.

Lasday said there are "exciting new initiatives" for congregational schools coming in the next year, building on the impetus created by Jewish educational umbrella organizations such as JESNA and PEJE, the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education.

In new collaborative efforts, JCCs, federations and religious schools in some cities are trying to work together to improve Jewish educational opportunities.

But Lasday doesn't see the salaries rising soon. "I tell them, follow your passion, don't follow the money," he said. "You're young, you'll always find a job."

For these young Jewish educators, it is indeed a calling and not a job.

Rachel Cooper, 21, is the youth and program director at her Conservative synagogue in Toronto. She says the work enriches her life in ways that cannot be measured.

"Ultimately it's because we have the opportunity to make a lasting mark on the world, one that is immediately seen," she said. "The next generation will be here, and we want them to be informed Jews. If we don't do it, who will?" ■

Peruvian Jews rally to collect aid for earthquake relief efforts

By Barbara Fraser

LIMA, Peru (JTA) — A small storage area off the courtyard of Leon Pinelo School is piled high with boxes and bags, as staff and volunteers sort through stacks of canned milk and bottled water, huge sacks of rice and beans, diapers and other essentials.

On the second day after a magnitude 8.0 earthquake shook the southern coast of this Andean country, killing at least 500 people, injuring more than 1,500 and leaving tens of thousands homeless, students began arriving at the school carrying food, water, clothing, sleeping bags and other relief items for the victims.

The collection is part of a two-pronged response to the disaster, according to John Gleiser, president of the Jewish Association of Peru. The first step is delivery of emergency aid, while the second will focus on helping with long-term reconstruction.

"We are united with a single purpose," said Elizabeth Vexelman, a spokeswoman for the committee organizing the effort. Although the disaster "did not affect us personally, it did affect us as Peruvians."

The quake, which struck at 6:40 p.m. on August 15, shook buildings in Lima, where most of Peru's Jewish community lives, but did little damage in the capital of 8 million people.

About 125 miles south, however, near the epicenter, it virtually destroyed the town of Pisco and leveled many buildings in the towns of Ica and Chincha.

Most of the houses that collapsed were older dwellings made of plaster-covered adobe bricks. The prolonged tremor caused walls to buckle and roofs to collapse. In the fishing village of San Andrés, high waves caused by the earthquake flooded houses and battered fishing boats, leaving them scattered on the streets.

The disaster brought an immediate response from Jewish leaders and entrepreneurs not just in Peru, but also in Uruguay, Argentina and other countries. Because getting donated goods through Peruvian customs often results in delays, a bank account was set up for donations from abroad. The funds will go to a longer-range post-quake project, such as helping to rebuild a school or health center, Vexelman said.

Several American Jewish organizations are also raising money for the relief effort. And the Israeli government donated half-a-ton of medicines and medical supplies as part of the relief effort. Embassy officials announced that the Israeli government would provide food and housing assistance as well, and was evaluating the possibility of sending water purification equipment. Peru is a popular destination for young tourists from Israel, but a spokeswoman for the Israeli Embassy in Lima said no Israeli citizens were known to have been killed or injured in the disaster.

The disaster sparked an immediate outpouring of solidarity in Lima as businesses, churches and district governments set up drop-off points for donations.

Members of the student volunteer program at Leon Pinelo School immediately began asking members of Lima's three Jewish synagogues to donate relief supplies. By Aug. 19, between three and four tons of supplies had arrived, and organizers were expecting four or five more tons, when they will load trucks to ship the items south, Gleiser said.

Nearly all of Peru's 3,000 Jews live in Lima. About half belong to the Union Israelita del Peru, while the rest are divided between the Sociedad de Beneficiencia Israelita Sefaradi and the Sociedad Israelita de 1870.

Organizers of the relief effort have used cash donations to purchase several thousand blankets, more than 200 picks and shovels, and huge cooking pots for the communal soup kitchens being set up in parks and shelters in Pisco, Ica and Chincha.

They decided to channel the assistance through Caritas, the Catholic Church's humanitarian aid organization, which has local representatives in the affected cities.

"We are going to be very careful," Gleiser said, to get the aid "to the people who really need it." ■

Peru earthquake: Where to give?

The following Jewish organizations are taking contributions to help relief efforts in Peru:

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Make checks payable to:
Peru Earthquake Relief
P.O. Box 530
132 East 43rd St.
New York, NY, 10017
212.687.6200
Donate online: https://www.jdc.org/donation/jdc_form.cfm

American Jewish World Service
Make checks payable to:
American Jewish World Service
45 West 36th Street
New York, NY 10018-7904
212.792.2900
Donate online:
ajws@ajws.org

B'nai B'rith International
Make checks payable to:
B'nai B'rith International Disaster Relief Fund
2020 K Street, NW,
7th Floor
Washington, D.C., 20006
202-857-6600
Donate online: www.bnaibrith.org/peru

JDC helps woman realize vision of Jewish-run youth village in Rwanda

By Justin Sulsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — Anne Heyman heard a statistic nearly two years ago that would change her life: Fifteen percent of Rwandan children are orphans due to the 1994 genocide that murdered 800,000 people in 100 days.

"I couldn't let go of this notion," Heyman said. "There was really no future for Rwanda."

Heyman, a non-practicing attorney born in South Africa, has spent the past two years pushing for the creation of a Jewish-sponsored institution in Rwanda to help tackle the dire situation.

Her determination is paying off—she will attend a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday in Rwamagana, Rwanda, for the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village, which will serve 500 impoverished orphans.

Agahozo—Kinyarwandan for "the place where tears are dried"—is modeled after the Youth Aliyah Village of Yemin Orde, which was founded in 1953 and initially housed Holocaust orphans.

To help realize her vision, Heyman turned to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Israeli officials, including many Ethopian Israelis, have been involved in the formulation of the youth village.

"We will strive to the extent that it's possible to create a normal environment," Heyman told JTA in a phone interview from her hotel room in Rwanda. "As far as I know it's unprecedented."

The JDC is promising that the village will provide Rwandan orphans, many of them infected with HIV and suffering from AIDS, with a "safe, structured environment with a rich community life where children are exposed to all elements of parental and familial normalcy, thereby providing wholeness in the wake of destruction."

"[Jews] have a collective experience with the Rwandans, having come through genocide," said Will Recant, the JDC's assistant executive vice president. "We're very much invested in the long-term sustainable commitment to make this happen."

Heyman said she hopes that students from all over Rwanda will come to the village and impart what they have learned to their home communities when they graduate.

"The effect of this project will be felt over the country," Heyman said.

Recant said numerous high-ranking political and business leaders are supportive of the school, which is slated to open in 2009.

"We've been received at the highest levels of the Rwandan government," he said.

Recant and Heyman both said they hope eventually to replicate the villages in other parts of Africa.

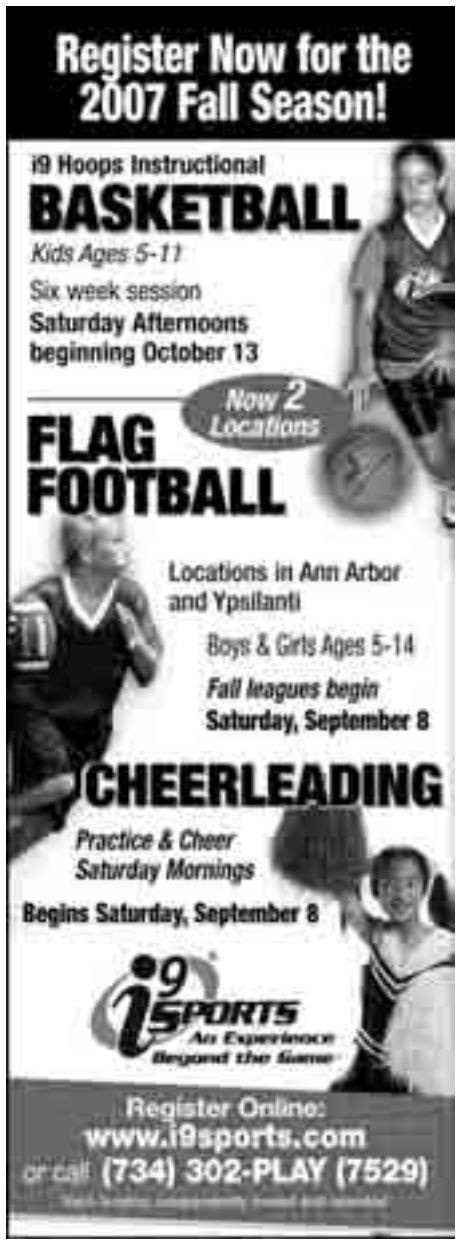
Heyman said in order to provide the greatest benefit, the JDC is trying to hire as many qualified Rwandan people and companies. But due to the shortage of qualified Rwandan teachers, she said, some positions will be filled from outside the country.

Recant, who has extensive experience leading the JDC's nonsectarian humanitarian programs, said those not often exposed to Jews and Israelis gain a great appreciation for them when they see the work being done by Jewish organizations.

"The work itself speaks volumes," he said. "They see we have no horns."

"I've never felt more warmly welcomed as a Jew" than at any other time while doing humanitarian work, Heyman said. "There's a tremendous sense of admiration and respect toward Israel" as they see how much the Jewish state achieved in so little time.

"This project," she said, "really brings back Israel as being a light unto the nations." ■



Brit Tzedek v'Shalom advocates for a two-state solution

Clare Kinberg, special to the WJN

From June 16 to 19, four members of the Ann Arbor Brit Tzedek v'Shalom chapter joined 120 pro-Israel, pro-peace activists in Washington, D.C. to take part in four days of training and advocating in support of a two-state resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The training began with workshops and consultations with beltway foreign policy experts. Then Ann Arborites Aaron Ahuvia, Larry Kestenbaum, Eleyne Levitt, myself and Brit Tzedek members from 20 states across the country held 100 meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress and their staffs.

In the House, the purpose of the meetings was to ask representatives to cosponsor H.Res.143, California Rep. Susan Davis' resolution calling on President Bush to appoint a special envoy for Middle East peace. In the Senate, Brit Tzedek members asked senators to sign on to S.Res.224, the Feinstein/Lugar resolution calling on President Bush to make a two-state solution a "top priority" and urging him to appoint a high level Special Envoy for Middle East Peace.

The Michigan delegation met with staffers from Senators Levin's and Stabenow's offices and from the offices of Representatives Dingel and Knollenberg. The impact of the meetings was felt almost immediately. After the meeting with Brit Tzedek, Senator Carl Levin became one of 8 new co-sponsors of the Feinstein/Lugar Senate resolution. Sixteen additional members of the House also signed onto the Davis resolution following their meetings with Brit Tzedek members from their districts.

The training and advocacy took place during a particularly tumultuous time, the week Hamas fighters took control of the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas dissolved the Palestinian Unity government and appointed a Fatah led emergency government in the West Bank.

On Sunday night, June 17, Brit Tzedek's National Advocacy Days 2007 (NAD) began with a lively panel debate featuring Mideast policy experts Daniel Levy (senior fellow and director of the Middle East Policy Initiative, New America Foundation; lead Israeli drafter of the Geneva Initiative), Ziad Asali (president and founder of the American Task Force on Palestine), and Mara Rudman (senior fellow at the Center for American Progress). While the original topic slated for discussion was "peace developments in the region," the prior weeks' events in Gaza and the West Bank dominated the conversation. The three speakers differed sharply on how to best move forward. Rudman and Dr. Asali argued that the U.S. should capitalize on and support the non-Hamas emergency government formed by Abbas, while Levy countered that isolating Hamas is a dangerous continuation of a failed policy and that progress depends on the re-formation of a Palestinian unity government capable of making agreements for the Palestinian people. Nevertheless, all three panelists agreed that the end goal remains the same: a negotiated two-state resolution and vigorous U.S. leadership to bring it about.

Brit Tzedek's president, former member of Knesset Marcia Freedman, agreed with Levy's analysis, "The violent dissolution of the Palestinian Authority unity government must serve as a wake-up call to the United States," she said. "The Bush Administration's failure to press for tangible progress toward resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has greatly contributed to the current chaos in the Palestinian territories, jeopardizing Israel's security and undercutting Palestinian moderates committed to the conflict's resolution through a land-for-peace compromise," she added.

Three esteemed members of Congress, Reps. Lois Capps (CA), David Price (NC), and Susan Davis (CA) spoke at Brit Tzedek's annual National Advocacy Days Congressional Reception. Reps. Jerry Nadler (NY) and Jim Moran (VA) also attended and greeted the group.

Congresswoman Lois Capps, a long-time proponent of the pro-Israel, pro-peace cause in the House, stressed the significance of Brit Tzedek's presence on Capitol Hill at a time of such turmoil in the Middle East. Capps called on Brit Tzedek to "Gear up... This is the time to build that coalition even stronger, to reach more and more people, to speak so firmly so that members of Congress cannot help but notice to see the new way to relate to Israel is the peaceful way."

Brit Tzedek's June advocacy for a two state solution was sandwiched between that of other groups with very different agendas, both left and right. Just a week earlier, a 5,000 person Palestinian solidarity demonstration in the streets of Washington DC demanded an "end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine." And days after, the Zionist Organization of America met with members of Congress urging them to oppose any support for the Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas.

"I'm so glad I went to Washington," said Eleyne Levitt, membership chair of the Ann Arbor Brit Tzedek chapter. "Members of Congress appear to be getting our message that there is more than one way to support Israel," Levitt continued. "There seemed to be an understanding that Israel's future, and the stability of the region, depend on both Israel and the Palestinian people getting their needs met." ■

To find out more about the activities of the Ann Arbor Brit Tzedek v'Shalom chapter, contact Aaron Ahuvia at ahuvia@umd.umich.edu.

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As small businesses struggle in Israel's North, UJC moves to inject capital into area

By Jacob Berkman

ROSH PINA, Israel (JTA) -- When Hezbollah rockets started falling on Kiryat Shemona last summer, Dror Museri shut down his locksmith, safe and bike shop and fled with his wife and twin toddler daughters to Tel Aviv.

The three-man operation his father started 40 years ago lost an entire month of income during the 2006 war against Hezbollah, and the situation got worse upon their return.

"We started to pick up ourselves from that very hard month, but in the first days, the first weeks, we didn't have one customer," he told JTA. "Nobody came to the store. No customers. No business. No nothing."

A year later, he still has not recovered.

It is small businesses like Museri's that the United Jewish Communities is trying to save by allocating more than $35 million to boost the economy in northern Israel, the region hit with thousands of Hezbollah rockets during the war. At the center of this economic initiative are two projects that guarantee loans for small businesses.

The money is part of the $360 million UJC and its companion network of North American Jewish charitable federations raised during their Israel Emergency Campaign. The funds are also going to help rebuild the North, improve its education system and provide ongoing treatment for trauma victims.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert claimed in a meeting last month with American journalists that the economy in the North is booming. But professionals overseeing the UJC's projects say that the area is in dire financial straits. While Israel's overall economy is expanding at an annual clip of about 4.7 percent, according to Israel Discount Bank's latest report, most of that growth has come in the big business, export and high tech sectors—and primarily in the center of the country.

Many small businesses up north are still floundering.

Museri, for example, estimates that his sales are down about 35 percent from last year. And the government has been of little help, reimbursing him only 20,000 shekels, or $4,737, for his and his father's salaries for the month of the war.

Museri said he is in relatively good shape compared to some of his neighbors. One friend who owned a motorcycle repair shop had to close, as did another who owned a restaurant, he said.

The UJC, along with the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, are working with four Israeli small business incubators to provide consulting services to small businesses like Museri's to help them grow in the aftermath of the war.

> *United Jewish Communities is allocating more than $35 million to boost the economy in northern Israel.*

Once the businesses have gone through this mentoring process, the UJC works with The Koret Israel Economic Development Fund—run by the San Francisco-based Koret Foundation—to help them secure bank loans.

More than any other program UJC is funding, its economic development initiative is key to keeping Israelis in the area, said Carl Kaplan, the Tel Aviv-based managing director of the Koret development funds.

"It is a worldwide accepted axiom that small businesses create jobs," Kaplan said. "If you pump money into small- to-medium businesses that are not tourist based, you have an opportunity to further develop the economy in the North."

Northern Israel faces several inherent obstacles that were present even before the war. It is a heavily fragmented region that, aside from Haifa, is made up of scores of small municipalities, giving it no real commercial center.

Travel within the region is difficult, given the lack of infrastructure, including decent roads and a rail system. But the area's greatest economic weakness is lack of capital, experts say.

Israeli banks give a disproportionate number of their loans to large companies —a particularly pressing problem in the North, where the estimated 90,000 small businesses, with roughly 25.4 billion shekels, or $6 billion//check// in combined sales per year, make up the core of the area's economic structure.

The banks require collateral -- as much as 100 percent—that would be considered extreme in the United States, according to Kaplan. And the eligibility requirements are stric—banks will not accept small items, including office furniture and machinery, because the after market value for such items in Israel is small.

During the war, many businesses leveraged what they had to secure loans just to pay for their inventory, leaving them with no collateral for rebuilding efforts. But the Koret development funds, with a record dating back to 1994 of orchestrating loan guarantees for small businesses in Israel, have worked out a contract with Bank Ostar Hachayal and Mercantile Discount Bank, whereby the banks will loan $6.25 dollars for every dollar that UJC allocates.

The UJC is putting up $7 million that the Koret development funds will leverage into about $35 million in loans, with the goal of securing loans for about 650 medium-sized businesses and another 250 family-run, micro-businesses.

A similar deal is in the works with Tzafona, an Israeli economic development company chaired by Eitan Wertheimer, who recently sold 80 percent of his Iscar Metalworking Companies to Warren Buffet for $4 billion. The UJC has allocated $17.5 million for that project.

This second program could result in an additional $165 million in loans -- which would mean a total of $200 million in total for northern businesses, as a result of the UJC-Koret partnership. In comparison, over the past 13 years, the Koret development funds have secured about $140 million worth of credit resulting in 4,650 loans for businesses all over Israel that, Kaplan said, have strengthened or created roughly 20,000 Jobs.

The two new loan projects, Kaplan estimated, would create 1.5 jobs per family in northern Israel.

Howard Rieger, president and CEO of UJC, said focusing on these business loans made sense.

"The question is how do you encourage people to stay and try to make it up there and to try to survive?" Rieger said. "From a loan perspective, the money just wasn't available at that level."

Among those who have benefited is Shiri Harkin, who sells holistic medicine made from her homegrown herbs out of a shoebox -sized storefront next to her house in Rosh Pina. Unable to sell her inventory after the war, she bounced several checks, which got her on a blacklist, making it impossible to write checks or get credit.

But she has been working with two Israeli incubators, which helped her straighten out her finances and obtain a small loan of under $10,000. Now she has two deals with chains of spas that will use her line of herbal remedies.

As for Museri, the locksmith, safe and bike shop owner, he has taken out two loans totaling $14,000—to pay for inventory he bought before the war and was unable to sell — that he hopes will help bail him out.

"The war has caused a lot of stress in my life. I have a family to take care of. We have started to think about what will happen in the future and that we have to keep money. We changed our lives because of the war," Museri said.

Now, with the help of one of the economic incubators, he is trying to be hopeful about the future. "They give us advice. They help us any time we need." ■

From challah sales to JewTube, young innovators cook up fresh ideas

by Uriel Heilman

JERUSALEM (JTA) – When Eli Winkelman first had the idea of transforming her weekly challah sale at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., into a charity benefiting Sudanese refugees, she thought it would be a cool way to sell a few extra peanut-butter loaves.

Winkelman never thought the idea would galvanize hundreds of students to write letters to their lawmakers about the genocidal campaign in Darfur, raise $30,000 for the refugees, spark interest in replicating her Challah for Hunger program at campuses from coast to coast and earn her a mention in a speech by former President Bill Clinton.

"People who aren't involved anywhere else in Jewish campus life think baking challah to help people in Darfur is cool," she said. "It becomes a steppingstone for people who are getting in touch with their Jewish roots."

Two-and-a-half years after starting Challah for Hunger, and weeks after graduating from college, Winkelman, 22, is pondering her next big move. She is one of 18 fellows spending time in Israel this summer participating in the PresenTense Institute for Creative Zionism.

The brainchild of another pair of young innovators, Ariel Beery and Aharon Horwitz, both 27, the institute is a six-week summer program in Jerusalem for a select group of enterprising 20- and 30-somethings from Panama to the West Bank – all of whom are looking for ways to change the Jewish world with fresh ideas.

Organizers of the institute hope the program, which they dreamed up several months ago, will serve as an incubator for creative Jewish concepts.

The idea is to produce great Jewish achievements not just as a result of the training the fellows receive in such fields as Web publishing, podcasting, grant writing and business development, but also as a result of the synergy among talented people working together.

"There is so little Jewish leadership development," Beery said. "There is so much talk about it, but there isn't really an intensive skill-building workshop for these kids to come in and get the skills they need. We want to open up new paths for them. The idea is to have professional development for these innovators.

"It's the next paradigm for Jewish collective existence," he said.

It's basically the same idea as another recent gathering in Jerusalem, the Global ROI Summit, where 120 young Jewish innovators from all over the world assembled for a four-day meeting of the minds.

Run under the auspices of birthright israel and the Center for Leadership Initiatives, the summit also offered participants workshops in building online communities, publishing webzines and making films.

But the primary goal appeared to be networking. Computer geeks mingled with bloggers, filmmakers dissected Kafka with doctoral students and artists shared their creative visions with anyone willing to listen over a glass of wine.

"The idea is to train emerging leaders in the Jewish community," Yonatan Gordis, director of programs at the Center for Leadership Initiatives, said over cocktails at sunset in the Israel Museum sculpture garden. "Here in Israel they have a chance to engage, cross-country and cross-topic. They think collectively."

Participants came from Russia, Latin America, Israel, the United States, Australia, South Africa – pretty much anywhere there are Jews. There were TV reporters, Web-

masters, Hillel directors, CEOs of start-up companies, environmental activists, Israel advocates, museum programmers and, of course, an assortment of Jewish community professionals.A few of the Creative Zionism Institute fellows were there, too.

"It's an interesting group," said Jeremy Kossen, 34, founder of the recently launched Jewish culture and entertainment site JewTube.com.

Promoted as "Facebook meets YouTube for Jews," JewTube aims to become the central address for Jewish entertainment, culture, education and advocacy – insofar as it can fit into a five-minute video clip.

Kossen said he originated the idea when he couldn't find relevant, interesting Jewish multimedia content on the Internet. He said the summit was helpful mainly in getting his new Web site widespread attention in the Israeli media. Philanthropist Lynn Schusterman, who sponsored both the ROI summit and the Creative Zionism Institute through the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, said participants in these events are the rising stars of the Jewish people.

"I'm sorry I don't have the time to sit and visit with each and every one of them," she said.

Schusterman said it's no coincidence that the programs are in Israel.

"One of the tracks of the summit is Israel advocacy," she said, "and Israel is the Jewish people's home."

Horwitz, of the Creative Zionism Institute, said Israel should be the creative platform for the Jewish people. As the co-editor of BlogsofZion.org, he also was one of the ROI fellows."Israel is a hub for the Diaspora. In Israel we have the spirit, wisdom, knowledge and social capital to take the next step forward in Jewish collective life," he said.

Beyond all the argot and hype, it appeared as if something indeed was being accomplished at 3 HaRan St., where the Creative Zionism Institute is housed in an apartment turned dormitory with a broadband Internet connection. Wires crisscrossed the floor where one fellow sat tapping out computer code for an easy-to-use Web-based publishing system, while another, Matt Barr, worked on Bible-inspired rap music (http://mattbar.com/music-43.html).

Horwitz said the institute is modeled on high-tech incubators, where people with promising ideas are given the resources they need to succeed and make money for their investors.In this case, he and Beery said, the dividend is new and improved Jewish life.

"We're trying to create 360-degree solutions for Jewish problems," Beery said, speaking rapidly and peppering his monologue with the latest buzzwords. "The Jewish world is at a crossroads right now, with the information age affecting entire humanity, but specifically the Jews, who are spread around the world," he said. "We're trying to unify the Jewish world and create new ways for the Jewish world to think, act, work and program."

A lofty goal, Beery acknowledged as he took a breath, but one worth aiming to reach.

Perhaps, he admitted with a yawn, it's why he finds so little time to sleep. ■

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A conversation with Arie Lipsky

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

I still remember the pained look on my father's face when I arrived home the summer after I graduated from college in my recently purchased, ancient Volkswagen bus. Both my parents were Holocaust survivors who had lived through the horrors of slave labor camps and who had lost countless family members in Auschwitz and in other camps. When I bought that VW it had skipped my mind that they had an aversion to anything German. Of course, they were not alone. Many Jews of their generation, with comparable backgrounds or not, held similar views. In the recent film, Checking Out, 90-year old Morris Applebaum, (played by Peter Falk) a former star of New York's Yiddish Theater, roars with indignation at his car dealer son for selling German automobiles. (Although, he is possibly even more furious at his son for daring to quote Hamlet to advertise them.)

It's not a simple issue, this remembering, and how we act in response to the memories. A carpenter working on our house recently told me that the best levels are German-made. I wondered; do Jewish carpenters avoid using them? Or, to paraphrase the familiar bumper sticker, "What would a famous Jewish carpenter do?"

Another example. Almost since their invention, the finest microphones in the world have been the German and Austrian makes. Hitler's rantings, and even the stamping of his boots as he delivered his hateful harangues, were amplified and recorded with the use of these microphones. Should Jewish musicians and recording artists refuse to use them?

While totally understanding, sympathizing with, and respecting my parents' and many other Jews' stance on this issue, I have not shared it, just as I have been fortunate to not have had to share the horrible experiences that inspired it. I feel that my task is always to remember, to never forget, but also to move on.

A couple of years ago, and again recently, I talked with Arie Lipsky, the Israeli-born conductor of the Ann Arbor Symphony, about a related issue, the subject of playing the music of German composers, Jewish and not. Lipsky is also the son of two Holocaust survivors.

Here are parts of our conversations.

Lipsky: You know, Mahler, he converted to get a job. He became a Catholic. Then he got to be conductor of the Vienna Philharmonic. He was such a complicated person. Even though he was conductor of the Vienna Philharmonic they would never play his music. Bernstein was the one who, when he was conducting them years later, took them to task for belittling Mahler's music. They called it scheiss music. One of the most respected composers of all, Gustav Mahler! They finally came back and acknowledged that. Only Bernstein could have done that.

Slomovits: Of course, you know the whole controversy about playing Wagner in Israel. What are your thoughts on that?

Lipsky: There is a kind of unofficial taboo about playing Wagner in Israel. It was tried a couple of times, once by Zubin Mehta, and each time they had to stop because of people booing. Years ago people used to feel the same way about Richard Strauss.

I was one of the first conductors in Israel to conduct Richard Strauss. Richard Strauss was a great composer, and couldn't care less about politics, but instead of running away as many people did, he just stayed there and became a card-carrying member of the Nazi Party in order to survive. He was not known to ever say or do anything anti-Semitic. But because he was a card-carrying member he was banned in Israel. But then people figured out, why ban him? Before I conducted Strauss, I asked my father if it was OK with him. And he asked me, "What did he do?" I told him and he said, "I think that's OK."

So, I conducted his music. Nobody threw anything at me. Not that I know of. (Laughter.)

We have to make music. We have to do what we do best.

Slomovits: Still, it took some courage.

Lipsky: Well, I love his music. I don't agree with what he did. I have more problems with Wagner. Because I like his music too. But, if you read some of the stuff he said. Oi yoi yoi.

A couple of years ago, I had the honor of sitting with Elie Wiesel at a dinner where he was the guest speaker. He's a great music lover and so we started to talk about music. Finally we came to the issue of playing Wagner in Israel. I asked him, "How do you feel about it?" His response was quite simple. He said, "Look, as long as there are people who are still there, who are hurt by the music and what it symbolized, I think it should not be played in Israel." Then he went on to say, "There will be a generation for whom the whole thing will be not forgotten, but forgiven, and then that music will be played again." I thought that that was a very interesting point of view.

Slomovits: So Wiesel made a distinction between playing Wagner in Israel and anywhere else.

Lipsky: Yes, he did. (Lipsky went on to tell another story) When my niece won a position with the Berlin Philharmonic as second harpist, my sister was reluctant to share the news with my parents for obvious reasons. Both my parents are holocaust survivors. When finally she found the courage to share the news with my father, news that under normal circumstances should have brought him lots of naches, my dad responded, "My granddaughter will play in Hitler's favorite orchestra?" He thought about it for a while and then said, "This is the best revenge I could imagine."

I endorse this approach and claim that it is fine to conduct the beautiful and heroic music of Wagner—and at the same time detest his blatant anti-Semitism and character flaws.

I conducted some excerpts from Wagner's Ring with the Buffalo Philharmonic about fifteen years ago and it was very successful. The music is absolutely first rate. I really love Wagner's music, but I really hate— I don't know if that is a good word, but I guess I'll have to use it — I really hate his personality and especially his attitude concerning the Jewish people.

Lipsky related one more Wagner related story. The roof of a beautiful concert hall in Prague is adorned with large statues and busts of many famous composers. When the Nazis conquered Prague, the officer in charge of the city ordered one of his men to go up on that roof and tear off the statue of the Jewish composer, Mendelssohn. The soldier climbed to the roof, as ordered, but then discovered that he had a problem. None of the statues were labeled. The soldier did not know which one was Mendelssohn. So, as Lipsky related, "Following what he learned in his Nazi race studies, the soldier went looking for the composer with the longest nose." He picked out the bust with the largest, most prominent nose and destroyed it—only to learn later that he had torn down the statue of Wagner. ■

Arie Lipsky will lead the Ann Arbor Symphony in the works of Wagner and Rachmaninoff on Saturday, September 29 at 8 p.m. at Hill Auditorium. For more information, visit www.a2so.com or call 994-4801.

After 50 years *West Side Story* still relevant today

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

West Side Story is celebrating its Golden Anniversary this year. The classic musical premiered at the Winter Garden Theater on Broadway on September 26, 1957.

The idea for the musical predated its opening by ten years. In 1947, a friend of famed choreographer, Jerome Robbins, brought up the idea of updating Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. In 1949 Robbins and Leonard Bernstein began discussing that idea. The two had already worked together on a Broadway play, *On the Town*, an expansion of Robbins' 1944 ballet *Fancy Free* for which Bernstein wrote the score.

Originally, *West Side Story* was to be about a Jewish girl and an Italian Catholic boy from Greenwich Village. In the play, at first tentatively titled, *East Side Story,* the conflict was to be religious intolerance. That first draft fizzled and Robbins and Bernstein dropped the project for six years.

In 1955 they revisited the idea again, this time incorporating the new realities of the New York City of the time. In the intervening six years, there had been a large Puerto Rican immigration to the city, which created the usual and chronic American tensions between the established citizens and the new arrivals. Instead of Jewish/Catholic, the conflict in the play now became Anglo/Puerto Rican.

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet became Tony and Maria, the Montagues and Capulets were transformed into the Jets and the Sharks, medieval Verona, Italy was transmuted to the West Side of Manhattan, and the musical was titled *West Side Story*. (However, you could easily argue that although the story was no longer about religious intolerance, the lyrics of one of the best loved songs from the musical, "Somewhere," not only express Maria and Tony's hopes for finding a place free of prejudice for their love, but also perfectly describe the Jewish longing in the middle of the 20th century for a safe haven in a world long rife with anti-Semitism.)

Robbins and Bernstein enlisted Stephen Sondheim, then still a young, not very well known composer and lyricist, (long before the fame of *Cats* and many others smash hits) to write the lyrics for Bernstein's music. Arthur Laurents was invited to write the book for the play. (Laurents was already well known for

writing *Home of the Brave* and would go on to write *Gypsy*, also with Jerome Robbins.)

The musical created a sensation. The timeless story, modernized to reflect the harsh realities of 1950's urban America, the blending of superior and memorable music, dance and drama, and the collaborative effort of some of the most talented artists in a number of disciplines, made for an instant classic.

When the play opened in Washington DC a week before its Broadway premiere, Leonard Bernstein was invited to the Eisenhower White House for lunch. He later told his wife, actress Felicia Montealegre, "All were talking of nothing but *West Side Story*. *The Washington Post* review called the musical, "a uniquely cohesive comment on life… the violence is senseless but Leonard Bernstein's score makes us feel what we do not understand." *The New York Times* hailed it as, "a profoundly moving show. Everything contributes to the total impression of wildness, ecstasy and anguish…"

The show ran on Broadway for more than two years, 772 performances, and then began a yearlong national tour, before returning to Broadway for another 253 performances. The London production also ran for more than two years and won the London Drama Critics prize, even though it was competing with another no-slouch musical—set in London no less—*My Fair Lady*.

The film version of *West Side Story*, co-directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins and starring Natalie Wood, took the musical to an enormous and worldwide audience. It's hard for us to picture today, when even the most successful feature films disappear from theaters after only a few weeks, only to soon reappear on DVDs, that the film version of *West Side Story* ran for an almost unprecedented 77 weeks—nearly a year and a half—after it opened at New York's Rivoli Theater in October of 1961. The overseas response was even more phenomenal. In Tokyo, it became the all-time top grosser at the Piccadilly Theater. In London it collected the greatest advance sales ever, while in Stockholm it was sold out months in advance. In Paris it ran for 218 weeks, more than four years!

In April of 1962 the film won ten Oscars, including Best Picture and Director, the most ever for a musical. Decades later, the film is still a treasured classic. It's been called the best film musical ever made. In 1998 the American Film Institute included it in its list of the "Top One Hundred Films of All Time."

West Side Story is just as relevant today as it must have seemed 50 years ago. Although the so-called "innocent" Fifties, and the sophisticated first decade of the 21st century are worlds apart in many ways, America today is still a magnet for immigrants from all over the world, and the centuries-old clashes between former immigrants—which almost all Americans are—and the most recent wave, remains a prominent part of our national dialog.

And, of course, it's not only an American tale. *West Side Story* continues to resonate with audiences, and even inspires today's filmmakers all over the world. Ann Hornaday wrote in *The Washington Post* recently, "And just this year, the Oscar for live action short film went to *West Bank Story*, which featured singing-and-dancing rumbles between two falafel stands, one Israeli and one Palestinian – complete with a star-crossed romance. Now that's entertainment to kvell about." ■

Books

WWII story offers clarity, humor

Rub Up: Musings of a Navy Corpsman, *by Mitchell J. Rycus, iUniverse, 2007*

Hazen Schumacher, special to the WJN

This novel is the story of Mike Rabin, a high school-dropout from Detroit. Raised in a secluded and supportive Jewish neighborhood Mike had wanted to fight Hitler but was too young for World War II. When the Korean War comes along in the early '50s, Mike joins the Navy and hopes to become a fleet marine corpsman and be involved in combat. He has to settle for becoming a Navy hospital corpsman, but luckily for him, he is assigned to "independent" duty on a destroyer, a ship that is not large enough to have a doctor on board. This means that Mike is the highest-ranking medical professional on board and thus has responsibility for the health of the crew. The ship never gets close to Korea but he has many adventures and personal contacts, both as the ship sails in the Atlantic Ocean and during onshore leaves in the U.S. and Europe.

Mitchell J. Rycus

Each chapter of the book is titled with the name of a person, military or civilian, with whom Mike comes in contact and who helps to influence and shape his future. They are a diverse group: shipmates on his destroyer, Catholics, blacks, Frenchmen, and others. From all of them Mike listens and learns. By the end of his service time, he has had experiences that change him from a boy into a man and which temper, but never disturb, his Jewishness.

During this coming-of-age trip Mike describes a wide variety of events. Some of the more unusual are: Mike seducing a Catholic high school graduate on a train but being unable to consumate the seduction due to lack of space; having anti-American slogans hollered at him in Paris; and spending time in St. Louis with a sailor who is also a drug dealer. Rycus describes all of these contacts with clarity and humor, but I think the best parts of the book are his descriptions of service life, the schools, the barracks, the officers, etc.

By writing this as a novel and not a memoir, it's possible that Rycus wanted to add some of the juicy and sexy parts which didn't happen in real life. In any case, the book is enjoyable and well-worth the read. ■

Pat answer: Holiday baked goods are sweet without butter, margarine

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA) — A desire for a sweet new year, often expressed in honey cake and apple crisp, brings Jews with differing needs together on Rosh Hashanah, when the menu typically revolves around turkey, brisket or veal.

While most appreciate the flakiness of fine pastry that butter delivers, a growing number observe kosher laws prohibiting the mixing of dairy products and meat at the same meal. Some Jews eschew butter because of high cholesterol, or they are allergic to dairy products or cannot digest them well. Jewish vegans won't eat meat, eggs and dairy foods for health and humane reasons.

Yet these folks are united on one front — they want perfect endings to Rosh Hashanah celebrations.

In the past, Jews on special diets might cheat on holidays, sneaking a decadent dessert or two. Vegans were consigned to dry and disappointing pastry.

The kosher baker's best option when meat was served was to replace butter with margarine, which traditionally yielded flat flavor and texture ranging from dry to gooey — sometimes in the same cake. But home bakers now can produce luscious desserts equal if not better in taste than their buttery counterparts without margarine.

Isa Chandra Moskowitz, a vegan and punk music aficianado since the 1980s, is a co-author of "Vegan Cupcakes Take Over The World: 75 Recipes for Cupcakes That Rule" (Marlowe & Company, 2006), her second cookbook.

While Moskowitz, 34, has been on the vanguard of American social and culinary movements, she has spent two decades experimenting with dairy-free baking. The results could revolutionize pareve pastries, raising them from a compromise to a contender when pitted against dairy desserts.

For ethical reasons Moskowitz avoids cooking with eggs, a boon to those with high cholesterol or an intolerance to the protein in eggs. In lieu of dairy products, she turns to full fat soy milk and non-hydrogenated coconut and canola oils. She imitates the silkiness of butter with tofu.

Don't be scared off by these ingredients. One bite of her cupcakes will compel you to reach for more.

As a 14-year-old, Moskowitz didn't want to feel deprived during dessert, so she sought ways to create pastry she'd want to eat if she weren't avoiding butter, cream and eggs.

"Punk gave me a do-it-yourself spirit," Moskowitz says. "I felt I could invent recipes even though I wasn't trained as a chef."

The experimentation led to successes and failures; she built on the former. She also had a marvelous role model.

"My grandma was a punk chef," Moskowitz says. "I don't know that she would have acknowledged the term, but at heart she was always breaking the rules and ignoring the instructions of her own recipes," which were scrawled on sticky index cards. "She knew best what the pie crust needed."

During two decades of trial and error, Moskowitz aced the chemistry of dairy-free baking. She learned that in most pastry recipes, when substituting oil for butter, less oil is needed than the butter measurement.

"There are structural differences between oil and butter," Moskowitz says. "Oil doesn't flake as nicely in pastries."

To encourage flakiness, she keeps oil in the freezer for several hours before making dough. To achieve thick, fluffy frostings, Moskowitz sometimes relies on margarine, but only the non-hydrogenated variety, which doesn't impart a chemical taste. She opts for the Earthbalance brand because it is free of trans-fats and dairy.

Her web site, www.ppk.com, an outgrowth of her public access television cooking show, "The Post Punk Kitchen," features sweet and savory vegan recipes for Jewish holidays.

At the other end of the spectrum, Ann Amernick is the co-owner and executive pastry chef at the Palena Restaurant in Washington, D.C. She has written three cookbooks, including *The Art of the Dessert* (John Wiley & Sons, April 2007), an elegant collection of recipes fit for five-star restaurants.

Amernick was the assistant pastry chef during the Carter and Reagan administrations; she probably was the first Jewish woman to cook at the White House. At a kosher state dinner served to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, she prepared frozen, non-dairy sherbet cakes flavored by orange liqueur.

Experience has taught Amernick much about the dos and don'ts of dough.

"Don't mix margarine into pastry dough of any kind," Amernick says. "However, neutral vegetable oils have their place in professional baking. They perform well in cakes with heavy texture."

Typical of this genre are honey, apple and carrot cakes, which are popular at Rosh Hashanah because they symbolize a sweet new year.

Amernick recalls Rosh Hashanah celebrations from childhood, specifically the confections baked by her aunt.

"I remember there was always apple cake and carrot cake on the table," she says. "I loved the teiglach she made and a raisin-filled pastry, a kind of streudel."

These sweet memories shaped her future. While oil marries well with sugar in dough, enhancing heavier pastries, Amernick has learned the two are not a winning combination in frostings. She recommends adorning pareve cakes with glazes, a mixture of confectioner's sugar and freshly squeezed juice, either lemon or orange. But don't expect glazes to be creamy and rich like frostings.

A supple liquid, they gracefully run down the sides of cakes, creating the quaint homey look seen in food magazine pastries.

"I have always recommended using high quality ingredients," Amernick says.

These include the best fruits, vanilla, nuts, spices, even the finest flour. In oil-based cakes, she relies on ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg and brown sugar to excite the taste buds, replacing butter's flavor.

She and Moskowitz agree that no matter the ingredients, the result must look stunning and taste irresistibly delicious.

Some may be surprised that Moskowitz's cupcakes call for sugar, cocoa and real chocolate — no healthy substitutions there. But her goal has always been creating irresistible desserts.

"If you know what you're doing, no one will miss the dairy," she says. "Why should they? ■

The following cupcake recipes are by Moskowitz and Terry Hope Romero from **Vegan Cupcakes Take Over the World.**

Your basic chocolate cupcake

Equipment:
12-muffin pan
cupcake liners

Ingredients:
1 cup soy milk
1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup canola oil
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/3 cup cocoa powder
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350°. Line muffin pan with cupcake liners. Whisk together the soy milk and vinegar in a large bowl. Set aside for a few minutes to curdle. Add the sugar, oil, vanilla extract and almond extract to the soy milk mixture. Beat until foamy.

In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add in 2 batches to wet ingredients. Beat until no large lumps remain (a few tiny lumps are OK). Pour into liners, filling three-quarters of the way. Bake 18 to 20 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Transfer to cooling rack and cool completely. Frost with Chocolate Mousse Topping (below). Yield: 12 cupcakes.

Chocolate mousse topping

Ingredients:
2.3-ounce package extra-firm silken aseptic tofu, such as Mori-Nu, drained of excess liquid
1/4 cup plain soy milk
2 tablespoons agave syrup or maple syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
12-ounce package semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preparation:

Crumble the tofu into a blender. Add the soy milk, syrup and vanilla. Puree until completely smooth. Set aside.

In a double boiler, melt the chocolate chips. Use a rubber spatula to mix the chocolate as it melts. Once melted, remove from heat and let cool for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the chocolate to the tofu and blend until combined. Use the spatula to scrape down the sides of the blender every so often. Transfer mousse to an airtight container. Chill for 1 hour before frosting cupcakes.

Toasted coconut cupcakes

Equipment:
12-muffin pan
cupcake liners

Ingredients:
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/3 cup cocoa powder
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup coconut oil
1 cup coconut milk
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 teaspoons coconut extract
1/2 cup unsweetened shredded coconut

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350°. Line muffin pan with cupcake liners.

In a medium bowl, sift together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt. Melt the coconut oil in a small saucepan over very low heat. Once melted, turn off the heat, but leave oil in the pan on the stove, so that it stays warm and does not solidify.

In a separate medium bowl, mix together coconut milk, sugar, vanilla and coconut extract. Stir in the melted coconut oil. Add the flour mixture in batches, beating well after each addition. Mix until smooth, then fold in the shredded coconut. Fill cupcake liners two-thirds full. Bake for 24 to 26 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack and cool completely. Frost with Coconut Pecan Fudge Frosting (below). Yield: 12 cupcakes.

Coconut pecan fudge frosting

Ingredients:
1/4 cup rice milk
2 tablespoons cornstarch
Scant pinch of salt
3/4 cup coconut milk
1 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 tablespoon bourbon, optional
1/2 cup pecans, coarsely chopped
1 1/2 cups shredded unsweetened coconut

Preparation:

Whisk rice milk, cornstarch and salt in a small bowl. In a large stainless steel saucepan over medium heat, stir together coconut milk and brown sugar. Cook, stirring occa-

sionally, until mixture starts to boil. Turn down heat to low and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes.

Whisk rice milk mixture once more and slowly pour into the coconut milk mixture, stirring constantly to incorporate. Stir mixture continuously, until it darkens, gets very thick and smooth, and cornstarch is cooked, about 6 to 7 minutes. Remove from heat and beat in vanilla and bourbon, chopped pecans and coconut. Stir until everything is coated and completely combined. Cool to room temperature before frosting cupcakes.

The following recipes are from **The Art of the Dessert** *by Ann Amernick.*

Honey cake

Equipment:
2 9-by-5-inch loaf pans
Parchment paper
No-stick vegetable spray

Ingredients:
2 cups cake flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
4 large eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup honey
1 cup vegetable oil
Lemon sorbet as an accompaniment

Preparation:

Preheat the oven to 350°. Coat loaf pans with no-stick spray. Line pans with 2 pieces of parchment paper and coat paper with no-stick spray.

Sift the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and allspice into a bowl. Set aside. Place the eggs and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a whisk attachment. Beat on high speed until the mixture is light and fluffy. Reduce the speed to low and add the honey, then the oil. Mix on low for 2 1/2 minutes, then on medium for 2 1/2 minutes.

Fold in the flour mixture by hand in several additions, mixing well with a spatula. Spoon the batter into the prepared pans, dividing evenly. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until domed, set and a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean. (The loaves will crack during baking.) Don't open the oven doors until the cakes have domed, as this could cause them to collapse.

Cool the loaves in their pans on racks for 1 hour. Unmold the loaves onto racks and wrap tightly in plastic wrap while they are still slightly warm to preserve moistness, until ready to serve. At room temperature, cakes will remain fresh for 3 days, or freeze them for 1 month. Serve with lemon sorbet. Yield: 10 slices per cake or 20 slices in all.

Carrot cake with lemon glaze

Equipment:
2 8-inch round cake pans
Parchment paper
No-stick vegetable spray

Ingredients:
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon allspice
4 eggs
3/4 cups of dark brown sugar
3/4 cups granulated sugar
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups neutral salad oil, such as Crisco
1 pound carrots, peeled and grated by hand or in a food processor
1 cup of raisins (can be half dark and half golden)
1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Preparation:

Coat cake pans with no-stick spray. Line them with parchment paper and coat paper with no-stick spray. Preheat the oven to 350°.

Sift the flour, baking powder, baking soda and spices; set aside. In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the eggs, both sugars and vanilla using the whisk attachment. Beat at medium speed for 3 minutes. Lower the speed and slowly add the oil, beating continuously. The egg mixture will become thicker as the oil is added. Continue to beat for another 5 minutes. On the lowest speed, add the flour mixture in fourths. Mix well, then by hand, fold in the carrots, raisins and walnuts. Place in the prepared pans and bake 15 minutes. Rotate the pans and bake for 5 more minutes, or until the cakes have risen and are golden brown, firm to the touch and a cake tester comes out clean from the center.

Cool the cakes on a wire rack. Turn them out onto a plate or cake circle; coat the center of one cake with lemon glaze. Top with the second cake layer and allow the remaining glaze to coat the top and run down the sides. Yield: 8 slices.

Lemon glaze

Ingredients:
4 to 5 cups confectioner's sugar
1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (or more or less to taste)
Preparation:

Mix the juice with the sugar and stir well to combine smoothly. If the glaze seems too runny, add a bit more sugar. The quantities in this glaze can be adjusted for taste and texture.

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September 2007

Saturday 1

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 2

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 3

English as a Second Language Evening Classes: JFS. Ongoing Mondays from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 625 State Circle Drive. Contact Jewish Family Services at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org for more information.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Tuesday 4

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Pre-Mahj Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, noon; Drop-in Hobby Time. Join two quilters, an embroiderer, a person who draws and a knitter in fellowship with noshes provided. 1–2:30 p.m. **Every Tuesday.**

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Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. Every Tuesday.

Wednesday 5

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," with Dr. Lizbeth Fried. Continuation of emeritus class through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC. For information, call 971-0990. *Every Wednesday.*

Block Party: EMU Hillel. Co-sponsored by Red Bull. 4–7 p.m. Outside Pray-Harrold on EMU campus.

Meditation and Discussion: TBE. This fall's topic is the Baal Shem Tov and his writings using the book, *Tzava'at Harivash, the Testament of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov,* translated by Jacob Immanuel Schochet (available through Amazon.com). 7:30–8:45 p.m. in TBE Chapel. For information, contact Judy Freedman at 769-1709 or email freedmanjudy@comcast.net. *Every Wednesday.*

Open House: U-M Hillel. Annual open house party to learn all about Hillel. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Thursday 6

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 10:30 a.m.; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Miriam Brysk, emeritus biochemistry professor, photographer and mixed media artist, will present her new exquisite new series of pieces honoring the children of the Holocaust. 1 p.m.

An Ethical Start Family Traditions Party: JCC-Early Childhood Center. All ECC 3 and 4 year old children and their parents are invited to attend an evening of traditions and learning. Families are asked to bring an object that represents a value or tradition they want to pass along to their children along with a card that explains the item. Children are encouraged to wear pajamas. $10 covers cost of pizza dinner and childcare for younger siblings. 6 p.m. at the JCC.

Lecture Outing: JFS. Group outing to attend a Russian language seminar by Dr. Pinhas Polonsky on "The Wars of Israel in the View of Kabbalah," based on his book. The lecture takes place at the Oak Park JCC, 15110 West 10 Mile Road at 7 p.m. $5/suggested donation. JFS will provide transportation to Detroit area for a modest fee, if needed. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or phone 769-0209.

English as a Second Language Evening Classes: JFS. Ongoing Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6–9 p.m. at Jewish Family Services, 625 State Circle Drive. Contact Jewish Family Services at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org for more information.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 7

Meditation: TBE. With Judy Freedman. 1 p.m.

Welcome Back Shabbat: EMU Hillel. 6–6:45 p.m. at EMU Hillel. RSVP to Audrey by 9/6 at audrey@emuhillel.org.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 8

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots and parents followed by a Kid's Kiddush. 11 a.m.

Selichot Service: Chabad. Cantor Rabbi Polter from Oak Park leads the service, 1:30 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 9

Religious School Begins: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Presentation: BIC. Women's League opening event with Ruth Behar, U-M professor of anthropology talking about her forthcoming book, *An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba.* With photos. 9:30 a.m.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tzedek Science Palooza: EMU Hillel. Meet at Hillel and caravan to Ann Arbor Hands On Museum. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. RSVP to Stacey by 9/7 at tzedek@emuhillel.

Apples and Honey and Newcomers Welcome: JCC. Annual family event bringing together many local Jewish organizations to celebrate Jewish fall holidays and to provide information and education. Apples and honey will be offered for tasting, symbolic of the New Year. Children's games and activities will include bouncers, shofar blowing, arts and crafts, clowns, face painting, balloon animals, petting zoo and pony rides. Israeli food, kosher baked goods and lunch will be available for purchase along with gifts and Judaica items. A Newcomer's Booth will welcome new JCC members and new arrivals to the Ann Arbor community. Reservations required. 1–4 p.m. at the JCC. To register or for information, call 971-0090.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 10

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Rosh Hashanah Celebrations: JCC Seniors. Rabbi Rob Dobrusin, accompanied by pianist Bob Sims, will celebrate the New Year from 1-2 p.m. Russian family group, the Rachel Murkis Ensemble, will pay and sing Russian, English and Yiddish music from 7–9 p.m. Refreshments served. At the JCC.

Youth Kindermusik Class: First session of *Kindermusik for the Young Child* providing a pressure-free, developmentally appropriate transition to musically succeed before taking on more formal instruction. Provides opportunity to explore voice development, rhythm, notation, musical symbols and authentic prekeyboard, string and woodwind instruments. Cost is $300 which includes materials (CD, home and class activities, folder, family song book, glockenspiel and carrying bag.) 4:10–5:05 p.m. at the JCC. For information, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or craigpollack@jccfed.org. *Mondays through 12/17.*

Rosh Hashanah Celebration for Older Adults: JFS. 7 p.m. at the JCC. $6/ roundtrip fare on JFS CareVan, if needed. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at 769-0209 or email nina@jfsannarbor.org.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Tuesday 11

Library Story Hour: JCC-Early Childhood Center. A story hour featuring books from the ECC/PJ Library with a guest storyteller each week. 10–11 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Tuesday.*

Honey Tasting: EMU Hillel. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at the EMU Student Organization Fair.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Pre-Mahj Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, noon; Drop-in Hobby Time. Join two quilters, an embroiderer, a person who draws and a knitter in fellowship with noshes provided. 1–2:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Introduction to Judiasm: BIC. 15-session class led by Rabbi Sara O'Donnel Adler. Open to anyone who would like a thorough grounding in the basics of Judiasm, including those who are thinking of becoming Jewish. This first class will give a general overview of the course. $100/non-members. 8 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 12

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," with Dr. Lizbeth Fried. Continuation of emeritus class through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC. For information, call 971-0990. *Every Wednesday.*

Thursday 13

Rosh Hashanah

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 10:30 a.m.; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Friday 14

Rosh Hashanah, 2nd Day

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 971-0990.

Holiday services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 15

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimen-

Calendar

sions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 16

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Sunday Schmooze: Jewish Cultural Society. Michael Steinberg, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, will present "ACLU Cases in the News." Among topics to be discussed: Bush Administration policy of wiretapping phone calls without court orders; domestic partnership benefits; and affirmative action. 10 a.m.–noon at the JCC. For more information, call 975-9872 or email info@jewishculturalsociety.org.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open An your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Apple Picking: EMU Hillel. "Sweet As Apple Pie" event with Hillel of Metro Detroit. Meet at noon to caravan to Wasem Fruit Farm. $5 unless you drive. RSVP to Audrey by 9/14 at audrey@emuhillel.org.

Concert Outing for Older Adults: JFS. Hear the Michigan Chamber Players at U-M Rackham Auditorium at 4 p.m. $6/transportation on JFS CareVan, if needed. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at 769-0209 or email nina@jfsannarbor.org.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 17

Kindermusik Village Class: JCC-Early Childhood Center. First session of class. Includes a unique blend of multi-level activities that include creative movement, vocal play, object and instrument exploration and a colorful literature component. Baby growth and development will be stimulated and all senses will be engaged. $100/members; $125/non-members. Includes all materials, 11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or ndeyoung@jccfed.org for information. *Mondays through 11/5.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Presentation: JCC Seniors. "Neil Sedaka, A Nice Jewish Boy from Brooklyn and the Pop Music of the Late 1950s." Presented by Michael Homel, EMU history professor. 1-2 p.m. at the JCC.

Scavenger Hunt and Luau: EMU Hillel–FYSH. Meet outside EMU Walton Hall at 4:30 p.m. RSVP to Danielle by September 14 at fysh@emuhillel.org.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Tuesday 18

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Pre-Mahj Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, noon; Drop-in Hobby Time. Join two quilters, an embroiderer, a person who draws and a knitter in fellowship with noshes provided. 1–2:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Screening of *Watermarks,* a documentary directed by Yaron Zilberman that features women from the Jewish Viennese Hakoah swim team during the rise of fascism in 1930s Austria. The film describes the women's success as athletes leading up to the Anschluss of 1938 when the swimmers fled Austria to disparate locations in Palestine, England, and the United States. 1–3 p.m.

Introduction to Judiasm: BIC. "The Days of Awe." Second class of 15-session course led by Rabbi Sara O'Donnel Adler. 8 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 19

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," with Dr. Lizbeth Fried. Continuation of emeritus class through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC. For information, call 971-0990. *Every Wednesday.*

Lecture: Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Dan Miron, Padnos Visiting Professor, will present, "Breathing Through Both Nostrils: Mendele Moicher Sforim's Art of Bilingual Fiction." Sh. Y. Abramovitsh (known better as Mendele Moicher Sforim) established himself as the founding father of modern prose fiction in both Yiddish and Hebrew by creating his major works simultaneously in both languages. The lecture will trace his use of bilingualism and explain its role as a literary model. Noon at the Frankel Center, 202 South Thayer, Room 2022. For information, call 763-9047.

Meditation and Discussion: TBE. This fall's topic is the Baal Shem Tov and his writings using the book, *Tzava'at Harivash, the Testament of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov,* translated by Jacob Immanuel Schochet (available through Amazon.com). 7:30–8:45 p.m. in TBE Chapel. For information, contact Judy Freedman at 769-1709 or email freedmanjudy@comcast.net. *Every Wednesday.*

Study Session: BIC. Pre-Yom Kippur session, "Preparing for Our Encounter with God: Home Traditions for Erev Yom Kippur," presented by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, 8 p.m.

Thursday 20

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 10:30 a.m.; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Yiddish Open House: JCC Seniors. Marilyn Krimm presents "Music and Mame-Loschen," (Music in the Mother Tongue). Yiddish songs, with English translations, by soprano vocalist Krimm. Nelly Ullman will offer introductions

PAULA CHRISTENSEN PHOTOGRAPHY

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and a ten minute Yiddish lesson.1 p.m. in the Newman Room at the JCC.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 21

Erev Yom Kippur

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 971-0990.

Concert Outing for Older Adults: JFS. Hear guest recitalist David Gompper on piano and Wolfgang David on violin at U-M Britton Recital Hall at 8 p.m. $6/transportation on JFS CareVan, if needed. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at 769-0209 or email nina@jfsannarbor.org.

Holiday services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 22

Yom Kippur

Holiday services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 23

Sukkah Raising: BIC. Annual congregation Sukkah raising where adult volunteers are asked to bring power tools and help construct the Sukkah. Coffee, tea, lox, bagels and coffee cake will be provided. 9:30 a.m.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Hikers: TBE. Jewish Hikers of Michigan Event open to anyone. For further information, visit www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan or contact Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645 or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 24

Lecture: Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. David Hirsh, Goldsmiths, University of London, will present, "Hate Israel, Hate Jews? Cosmopolitan Exclusions." Hirsh is a sociologist and a vocal opponent of recent boycotts against Israeli universities and scholars. For information, call 763-9047.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Stroke Screenings: JCC Seniors. Lifeline Co. will offer ultrasound tests by appointment. Testing in the Newman Room with lunch served in Gelman or Levine Lounge. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. at the JCC.

Dinner Presentation: JFS. "What Are You Doing With the Rest of Your Life: Finding Fulfilling Work in Life's Second Half." Dinner presentation with keynote speaker Lily Jarman-Reisch, LMSW, MA and director of SeaChange. Featuring research on national trends and issues related to characteristics of successful mid-to-later life career changes and fulfillment after 50, as well as tips for negotiating career changes and useful resources. 6–8 p/m. at Washtenaw Community College-Morris Lawrence Building. For more information, contact Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Concert Outing for Older Adults: JFS. Hear the University Symphony Orchestra at U-M Hill Auditorium at 8 p.m. $6/transportation on JFS CareVan, if needed. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at 769-0209 or email nina@jfsannarbor.org.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Film screening: Refusing to be Enemies—the Zeitouna Story. A documentary by Zeitouna member Laurie White. Members of the group will be in attendance and available to chat following the 9/26 showing. At the Michigan Theater at 7 p.m. *Also 9/25, 26.*

Tuesday 25

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Pre-Mahj Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, Noon; Drop-in Hobby Time. Join two quilters, an embroiderer, a person who draws and a knitter in fellowship with noshes provided. 1–2:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Lulav Making: Chabad. Join with community members to make the Lulav from its four species. 6:30 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Introduction to Judiasm: BIC. "Sukkot/Simchat Torah." Session three of 15-session class led by Rabbi Sara O'Donnel Adler. 8 p.m.

Edible Sukkah Building: EMU Hillel. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. in the EMU Student Center Food Court.

Film screening: Refusing to be Enemies—the Zeitouna Story. A documentary by Zeitouna member Laurie White. Members of the group will be in attendance and available to chat following the 9/26 showing. At the Michigan Theater at 7 p.m. *Also 9/26.*

Wednesday 26

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," with Dr. Lizbeth Fried. Continuation of emeritus class through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC. For information, call 971-0990. *Every Wednesday.*

Erev Sukkot Program: TBE. Pizza and salad dinner, 6 p.m. in social hall. Cost TBD. Sukkah decorating followed by blessings in the sukkah. For information, call 665-4744.

Sukkot Services: Chabad. 7 p.m.

Sukkot Services: AAOM. 7 p.m. at U-M Hillel.

Meditation and Discussion: TBE. This fall's topic is the Baal Shem Tov and his writings using the book, *Tzava'at Harivash, the Testament of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov,* translated by Jacob Immanuel Schochet (available through Amazon.com). 7:30–8:45 p.m. in TBE Chapel. For information, contact Judy Freedman at 769-1709 or email freedmanjudy@comcast.net. *Every Wednesday.*

Film screening: Refusing to be Enemies—the Zeitouna Story. A documentary by Zeitouna member Laurie White. Members of the group will be in attendance and available to chat following the screening. At the Michigan Theater at 7 p.m. *Also 9/26.*

Thursday 27

Sukkot

Sukkot Services: BIC. With Lulov and Etrog procession followed by Sukkot luncheon in the Sukkah. 9:30 a.m.

Sukkot Services: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at U-M Hillel.

Sukkot Services: Chabad. 9:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Sukkot Services: TBE. Service with lunch and Yiskor. 11 a.m.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 10:30 a.m.; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 28

Sukkot Services: BIC. With Lulov and Etrog procession followed by kiddush. 9:30 a.m.

Sukkot Services: Chabad. 9:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Meditation: TBE. With Judy Freedman. 1 p.m.

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 29

Tot Sukkot Dinner: BIC. For tots and parents. Pre-reservation required. Fee. 5:30 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 30

Hebrew in a Day: TBE and BIC. Brush up and feel comfortable with the Hebrew alphabet. This course is designed to teach the basics of Hebrew language reading. Become a confident Hebrew reader in one crash course. Food and materials are included. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. at BIC. $60/TBE and BIC members; $80/non-members. To register, call 665-4744.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Opening Brunch: TBE Sisterhood. 10:30 a.m.

Fall Sukkot Family Concert: JCC. Featuring Judy and David with interactive music and songs for children and their parents. Sukkot activities at 3 p.m. Concert at 4 p.m. Dinner at 5 p.m. At the JCC. $30/family for concert and dinner. For information, call 971-0990.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday October 1

Harvest Festival: EMU Hillel. 11:30–2 p.m. outside the EMU Student Center. For information, contact audrey@emuhillel.org.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. 7 p.m. at U-M Hillel. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and Shavuot meals. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Weekly services at 7:30 p.m. The second week of the month the Friday Services schedule changes to include: 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat followed by Tot Dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira song session at 6:30 p.m.; Family Service at 7 p.m. and Chapel Minyan at 8 p.m.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad House. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services and classes

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Maariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvor Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. U-M Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Mincha.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Weekly Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. led by Rabbi Levy in the chapel followed at 9:30 a.m. by congregant led service. Service in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. on weeks when there is a bar or bat mitzvah. Call the

office at 665-4744 or consult webiste at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and *yom tov* (Jewish holiday). Call 995-3276 in advance.

"Mystical Insights to the Torah": Chabad. For women to learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. Saturday, one hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

"Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics": Chabad. Study group examines the code of law for Shabbat and Jewish ethics. Saturday, 1/2 hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 663-4039

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

U-M Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

September 7	**6:39 p.m.**
September 14	**6:26 p.m.**
September 21	**6:14 p.m.**
September 28	**6:02 p.m.**

Argentina
Continued from page 1

munity absorbed immigrants over the decades, including many escaping Nazism at the eve of the second World War. In the 1940s, 5,000 Jews lived here, nearly the entire population of the town. The Jewish population dwindled in the postwar years through out-migration to Israel and the larger cities of Buenos Aires, Rosario, and Cordoba. The Jewish population is a mere 300 today, but their commitment to Jewish heritage, Hebrew language, and the rich history of their town is remarkable. And the state of Jewish knowledge is admirable, with a number of speakers of fluent modern Hebrew, a product of their education in the local Jewish schools. This small place, rich in history and home to a tiny struggling Jewish community, worked its way quickly into the hearts of the North American travelers.

At the opposite end the spectrum of Argentine Jewish life is Buenos Aires, European-styled metropolis with a thriving Jewish community of 200,000. Kol Halev performed there jointly with three local Jewish choirs in an "Encuentro Coral," a thrilling choral encounter attended by an enthusiastic overflow audience numbering in the many hundreds. After appearing individually, the four choirs joined to sing "Shehecheyanu" and "Amen," a heartfelt prayer for peace, fellowship, and well-being. In combination, the ancient words of gratitude and the modern Hebrew expression of yearning—sung in fellowship with brothers and sisters from the other side of the globe—perfectly captured the travelers' emotions as they culminated this remarkable journey.

Leading the journey all along the way were several people whose character, experience, and care for Kol Halev brought a vital sense of connection to every visit and activity. Others behind the scenes played important roles as well, including members of our own community:

Mario and Naomi Spivak are members of Temple Beth Emeth. Mario is from Buenos Aires and sees his Buenos Aires family frequently. When the Buenos Aires branch came to Ann Arbor for Eitan's bar mitzvah, they learned of the choir's plans for a tour of Argentina. The choir could hardly believe its good fortune when the Spivaks told them that this was something they could help with. And though Mario and Naomi were in Ann Arbor during the year of planning and during the tour itself, they were continuously involved and were always updated on our plans. From the beginning, this tour was a bicontinental family affair.Gregorio Spivak is Mario's brother and lives in Buenos Aires. Gregorio is a member of the AMIA (Association Mutual Israelita Argentina) board, physician, and mohel. Gregorio lent the engagement and prestige of the organized Jewish community to this trip, and was involved with every detail. He worked with his son, Uriel (see below), on the tour for more than a year.

Uriel Spivak is Gregorio's son and Mario and Naomi's nephew. In addition to working eighteen hour days accompanying the travelers throughout the trip, Uriel put in long hours for months in advance of the trip to make sure that every detail pertaining to transportation, lodging, food, and interaction with local Jewish communities was thought through. Uriel's fabulous charm and joie de vivre never interfered with the devotion and professionalism with which he approached his work.

Avraham Kaul is the former President of AMIA. Avraham traveled with the group throughout the entire trip. Avraham excelled both at making things happen for travelers in Argentina, and at interpreting Argentine Jewish life. Avraham places high priority on rich interaction between the Argentine and US communities. He has also been an advocate of greater Jewish assertiveness in public affairs whose presidency saw significant increases the political activism of a community that had traditionally sought to keep its head low. The choir's bond with Avraham was expressed in its invitation to him to sing in a duet in the Buenos Aires concert. The result is included in the enclosed CD on track 7, "Hey Zhankoye."

Kol Halev's concert tour of Argentina was the group's second international tour, the first having taken place in 2004, to Eastern Europe. A DVD chronicling the first tour, "Kol Halev in Concert: Eastern European Tour" by Stephen Haskin and Debbie Merion is available in the TBE gift shop or temple office, 665-4744. A new feature-length DVD by Haskin and Merion about the Argentinean tour and the Jews of Argentina is currently in the early stages of production. (www.kolhalevfilms.org)

Kol Halev is delighted to share the joy and beauty of our tour with our own Jewish community through the CD enclosed in this edition of the Washtenaw Jewish News, made possible through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County The first song, "L'chu N'ran'na," was recorded at Temple Beth Emeth at Kol Halev's sendoff concert in May. The rest of the tracks were recorded at Beth El in Buenos Aires on July 1. There is no charge for the CD. Additional copies are available through the TBE office, 665-4744. ■

Rosenberg
Continued from page 1

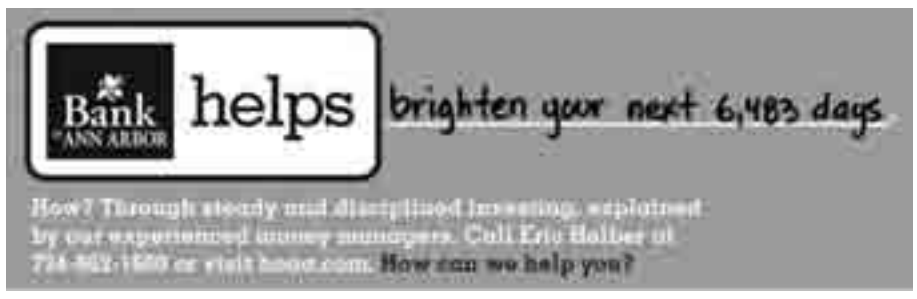
short term, the Awards are designed to show due appreciation for committed educators. In the long-term, the Awards will encourage local communities to create a culture of educator recognition. Honoring Jewish educators in this manner is also contributing to the elevation of the status of Jewish education in our society.

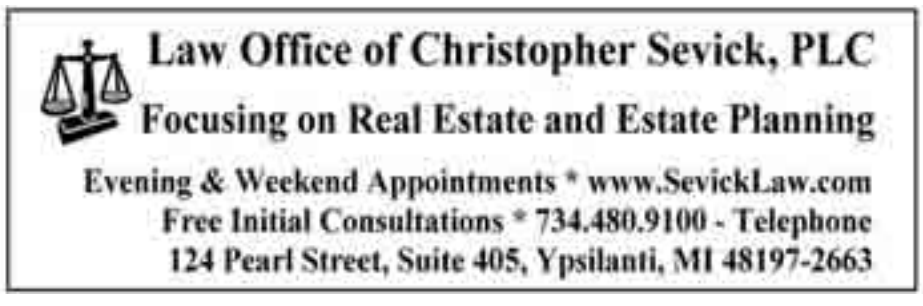
The Awards also encourage local philanthropists to join Mr. Grinspoon and Mr. Steinhardt in recognizing accomplishments in educators in their own local communities with cash awards, similar to what is done in many other professions. Each Awards Winner is awarded a $1,000 cash prize from his or her local Central Agency for Jewish Education/Federation. This is matched by a $1,500 stipend for professional development from the Grinspoon Foundation and Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation. In a growing number of communities, a local funder underwrites the $1,000 cash prize.

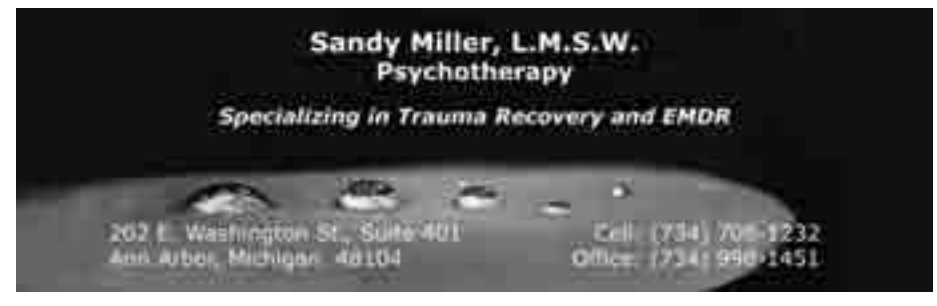
Additionally, recipients will be honored at the UJC General Assembly in November 2007 where they will be recognized amid a national gathering of Jewish education leadership. This national recognition ceremony is part of the Awards Seminar that all Awards Winners are invited to at no cost to them. The Awards Seminar is the culminating event for the Awards Winners. This Seminar is a celebration of the Awards Winners' accomplishments as well as an opportunity for the Awards Winners from all communities to meet each other and truly understand that they are part of a comprehensive Awards Program that functions on a local and national level and includes the educators, communities and philanthropists. This years General Assembly will be in Nashville, Tennessee. ■

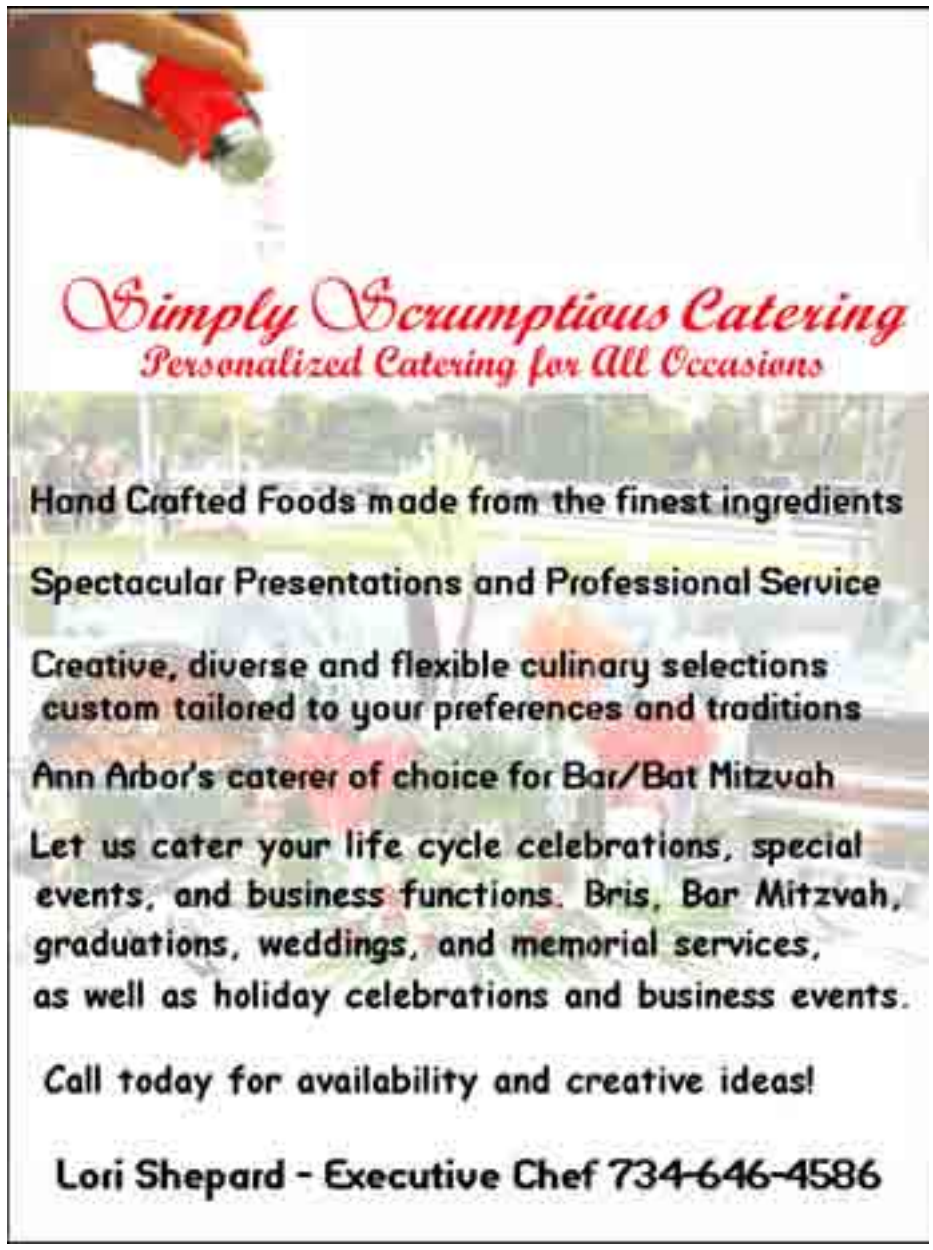
For more information about the Awards, go to www.grinspoonsteinhardt.org

JESNA seeks to make engaging, inspiring, high quality Jewish learning available to every Jew in North America by building an educational system of consistent excellence. Their role is to strengthen communities and their educational institutions by providing solutions, leveraging partnerships, promoting synergies, and building the connection that strengthen the whole.









Classifieds

Wanted: Israeli nanny for our two wonderful boys, age 6 and 3-1/2. Looking for someone loving, responsible, energetic and experienced. Full-time position, but possibly shorter hours for the right person. Non-smoking and drivers license required. Please email Dahlia at dwfhouse@yahoo.com or call 917-658-0726.

Support Childhood Literacy. Online auction to support the Family Learning Institute begins October 1. Go to www.familylearninginstitute.org and click under "What's New" to bid on great items while helping ensure free reading tutoring to low-income area children.

Fall Harvest Celebration to support the childhood literacy work of the Family Learning Institute. An evening of fun, food and wine takes place on Friday, November 2, 7:00 pm at the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of WCC. Call 995-6816 for info and tickets ($50). www.familylearninginstitute.org.

Experienced mature woman with healthcare background seeks part-time nanny position(15-20 hrs/wk) for infants and toddlers also available for individual situations has transportation & references 327-7901. Member of Beth Israel Congregation.

Supporting Our Children, a Workshop for Parents – Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m., Interfaith Center, 704 Airport Blvd. Ann Arbor. Gain support in strengthening your parenting abilities, practice new skills for enhancing connection with your children, and learn to nurture all of the children in your life. Presenter: Marcia Ferstenfeld, MA from Southfield, MI. Sponsored by Carole Kirby, lmsw. $150 per person. For more info or to register call or write Carole, (734) 424-2797 or www.therapy4couples.com

Furniture and computers (for internet use) needed for Jewish Family Services resettlement and other programs. Call JFS at 971-0209.

Volunteers needed for Jewish Family Services. Call 971-0209.

Just starting a new service or business? Furniture to sell? Looking for a handyman or roommate? The Washtenaw Jewish News classifieds is the answer! Only $3/line enables you to reach over 5,000 readers. Ads can be emailed to wjna2@aol.com or call 971-1800.

The deadline for the October Washtenaw Jewish News is Friday, September 7. Publication date: September 26

Washington

U.S., Israel ink deal for boost in military aid to counter Iran

By Dan Baron

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israel has secured a windfall in U.S. military aid that will last well into the administration of whoever succeeds President Bush -- and beyond.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns and Bank of Israel Governor Stanley Fischer clinched a deal last month whereby the Jewish state would receive $30 billion in defense grants over the coming decade, a 25 percent increase.

Burns made clear that the Bush administration sees the aid as a means of protecting Israel against a roster of regional foes topped by Iran, even as the Olmert government seeks ways of reviving peace talks with the Palestinians.

"There is no question that, from an American point of view, the Middle East is a more dangerous region now even than it was 10 or 20 years ago and that Israel is facing a growing threat," Burns told reporters after a signing ceremony in Jerusalem. "It's immediate and it's also long-term."

"The United States faces many of the same threats from the same organizations and countries as Israel does," he continued, "and so we felt this was the right level of assistance."

Fischer said that Israel, which is scrambling to improve its military capabilities in the wake of the Lebanon war and ahead of any possible confrontation with Iran, considers the new funding key.

"It provides a good deal of confidence to Israel," he said.

According to Fischer, Israel spends about 10 percent of its GDP on defense, and said that the U.S. willingness "to share a significant part of that burden"is a "critical element in the budget."

Washington announced the boost on July 30, along with plans to increase military aid to Egypt and sell some $20 billion worth of advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

Burns said the package was part of efforts to contain a "resurgent Iran" whose nuclear program has set off jitters not only in Israel, but also among Sunni Arabs.

"This contribution of $30 billion over the next decade will allow the State of Israel to plan its defense expenditures in a way that's rational, in a way that takes into account its own appreciation of its situation in this region and allows successive American administrations to also know that our commitment to Israel will be secure, beyond the presidency of President Bush and into the next American presidency," he said.

Israel initially raised objections to the prospect of the Saudis receiving cutting-edge weaponry, but Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was mollified by U.S. assurances that Israel's military primacy in the region would be preserved.

Israel currently receives $2.4 billion annually in military grants from the United States, 26.3 percent of which it can spend on its domestic defense industries. Under the new deal, the payouts will gradually increase until they level out at $3.1 billion in 2012.

Olmert's office said he had spoken to Burns to convey Israel's thanks.

"The prime minister noted that the U.S. aid deal is a significant development for Israel and proves once more the depth of the relations between the two countries, as well as the commitment of the United States to the security of Israel and the preservation of its qualitative edge," Olmert's office said in a statement. ■

Vitals

Mazal tov

Rebecca Greenberg on her bat mitzvah on September 1.
Matthew Fligiel on his bar mitzvah on September 8.
Lea Grossman on the birth of her grandson, Leo (Ari) Ray Grossman.
Deborah and Richard Ball on the birth of their grandson, Owen (Noam) Ball-Hakala.
Gideon and Carol Gideon on the birth of their grandson, Amitai Schwartz.
Ilana and Ari Gafni on the engagement of their daughter, Osnat, to Greg Pappas.
Laurence and Joanne Smith on the birth of their grandson, Morris Charles Richman, on June 23. Parents are Evan and Julie Richman of Seattle, Washington.
Arthur and Karen Lindenberg on the birth of their grandson, Jordan Daniel Kerr, born July 24. Parents are Haidee and Daniel Kerr.
Rachel Jennings on her bat mitzvah, September 8.
Zena Mitchel on her bat mitzvah, September 8.
Anna Solomon on her bat mitzvah, September 29.
Benjamin Bloomfield on his bar mitzvah, September 29.

Condolences

Carey Sherman on the death of her father, David Wexler.
Eric Young on the death of his father, David Young.
Alan Saltiel on the death of his father, Samuel A. Saltiel.
Robin Aronson on the death of her mother, Rita Sherer.
Helen Aminoff on the death of her mother, Lydia Sperber.
Nancy Kaplan on the death of her brother, Alan Perlmutter.
Dan Teitelbaum on the death of his father, Samuel Teitelbaum, May 10.
Rita Galin on the death of her father, Igor Galin, April 17.
Gita Ramsay on the death of her mother, Harriel Mann, May 15.
Ramona Brand on the death of her step-father, Herb Katz, on May 23.
Richard Lieberman on the death of his father, Harry Lieberman on May 26.
Deborah Katz on the death of her uncle, Morris H. Brown, on June 2.
Joanne Smith, on the death of her mother, Fadie Bergida on June 16.
Gretta Spier, on the death of her father, Herman Spier, on June 21.
Cathy Mallette, on the death of her father, Merle W. Rosin, on July 3.
Joy Wolfe Ensor, on the death of her father, Leon Wolfe, on July 7.
Emily Wachsberger, on the death of her aunt, Bernice Sherwindt, on July 7.
Ellen Rabinowitz, on the death of her father, Sy Rabinowitz, on July 11.
Jeoffrey Stross, on the death of his father, Julius Stross, on July 13.
Sarai Koster-Mockeridge, on the death of her grandmother, Jeannie Axelrod, on July 14.
Julie Steiner on the death of her father, Jim Steiner, August 3.
Lisa Pershke on the death of her mother, Sara Miller, August 4.
The family of Marilyn Rosenthal on her death, August 9.
Stephanie Newell on the death of her father, William L. Newell, August 9.

Advertisers

A2 Civic Theater; Music Man....30
Active Living Lifestyle....29
Afternoon Delight....39
Amadeus Cafe/Patisserie....2
Arbor Vacuum....6
Susan Ayer Photography....4
Ayses....3
Bank of Ann Arbor....37
Barry's Bagels....2
Batteries Plus....16
Beth Israel Congregation....21
Bivouac....5
Barbara Boyk Rust; psychotherapist....35
Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery....20
Chelsea Flowers....10
Paula Christensen, Photographer....35
Dragon's Lair Futons....38
Fawzi's Westgate Auto Repair....14
Frankel Center....6
Gold Bond Cleaners....29
Cantor Samuel Greenbaum; mohel....24
Hebrew Day School....17
Hillers....9
Carol Hoffer, CLU....4
I/9 Sports....26
iSoldit Ann Arbor....16
Jewish Community Center....18, 21
Jewish Cultural Society....17
Jewish Education Service of North America 17
Jewish Family Services....39
Jewish Federation....40
Joe Cornell Entertainment....24
Ken Lussenden....23
Kenville Studios....24
Keshet....35
Kruz Photography....16
Judy Levin; e-Pro Realtor....3
Lewis Jewelers....18
Margolis Nursery....20
Merkel One Carpet....6
Michal Porath; Edward Surovell Realtors....35
Sandy Miller....37
Minsky the Tailor....3
Modern Mechanical....37
Pen in Hand....4
Performance Network....24
Phil's Rugelah....39
Dennis Platte, Graphic Design....4
Quality Kosher....33
Renaissance Clothing....29
Restoration Vein Center....4
Rochman Build-Design....11
Michael A. Rogers Building and Improvement Inc....38
Pam Sjo, Reinhart Realtors....39
South Lyon Collision....3
Christopher Sevick, PLC....37
Select Ride....5
Simply Scrumptious....38
StarTrax....26
Temple Beth Emeth....17
United Bank and Trust....27
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism....10
University Musical Society....30
Village Apothecary....2
Miriam Weininger; Edward Surovell Realtors....16
Zingerman's....33

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Monday, September 24, 2007, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building

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Keynote Speaker: *Lily Jarman-Reisch, LMSW, MA, Director of SeaChange*

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Mark your calendars for these opportunities to join us in celebration:

September 7: YAD presents Shabbat in the Park

September 19: Campaign Kickoff, an especially funny evening for Campaign Leadership

October 11: The Maimonides Society presents Dr. Avi Yisraeli

October 18: YAD presents HEEB Storytelling

November 8: YAD presents a Night of Hilarity and Charity (date tentative - details forthcoming)

December 6: The Main Event with Michael Oren

Invitations coming soon to your mailboxes. For information about any of these events, please contact Cindy Adams, cindy@jewishannarbor.org; (734) 677-0100

Jewish Federation of washtenaw county

www.jewishannarbor.org